THE TIMES

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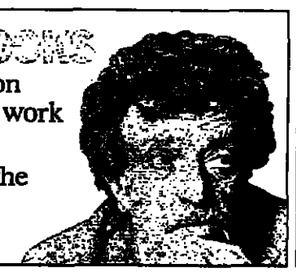
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Malcolm Bradbury on Kurt Vonnegut's last work

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Michael Portillo on the divided Tories

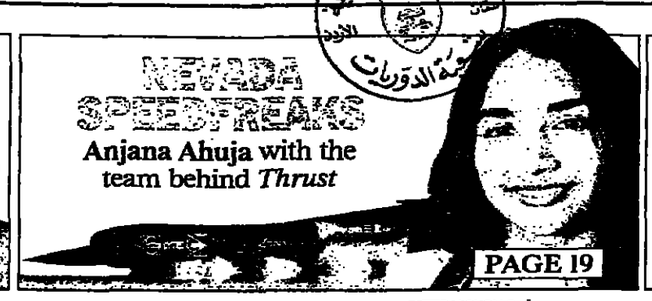
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NEVADA SPEEDFREAKS

Anjana Ahuja with the team behind *Thrust*

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BEST FOR JOBS

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SPECIAL 36-PAGE SECTION

Saudi lawyer tells of nurses' shock

Brother 'seeks $1.2m blood money deal'

By Daniel McGrory and Michael Theodoulou

THE brother of an Australian nurse stabbed to death in Saudi Arabia wants $1.2 million "blood money" to spare the life of the British woman accused of her murder, a Saudi lawyer said yesterday.

Salah al-Hejailan, who represents Deborah Parry and her co-defendant Lucille McLauchlan, said that Frank Gilford had demanded that the two give $500,000 (nearly £300,000) to a children's hospital and pay him the rest.

Mr al-Hejailan described the sum as extortionate, but said the two Britons — who worked with the victim, Yvonne Gilford — had agreed to the deal on Sunday. Both were said to be shocked by the scale of the demand and told lawyers that their families could not raise that amount of money. They nevertheless signed a binding document, a copy of which is being held by the British High Commissioner in Australia.

Mr Gilford is forbidden from speaking about the case under the terms of an injunction issued by an Australian court, but his wife and lawyers denied yesterday that he had waived the right to demand the death penalty. However, the Foreign Office confirmed that British diplomats in Australia had verified the document, although a spokesman added: "We cannot say what the financial terms are, as this is meant to be confidential."

Reports of Mr Gilford's secret deal came as British diplomats tried to discover whether Parry had been found guilty of the killing last December. McLauchlan was on Tuesday reported to have been sentenced to 500 lashes and eight years in jail for being an accessory, prompting fears that Parry had been convicted of murder, which carries a mandatory death penalty. Mr al-Hejailan said that he did not expect the court to rule on Parry until next month.

Yesterday a British lawyer visited the two women in Damman Central Prison, where they were said to be devastated and sick with nerves, and the British Consul-General will see them on Sunday. In the meantime, the Foreign Secretary will discuss the case with his Saudi counterpart tomorrow — although diplomats have warned Britain not to meddle and the Saudi Ambassador in London has accused critics of demeaning his country's courts.

On Tuesday, Robin Cook described the flogging sentence as "wholly unacceptable" and while the Ambassador, Dr Ghazi Algosaibi, made no comment on those remarks, he said: "We do not propose to change any country's judicial system and we will not allow any country to change our system." He emphasised that no final verdict had been reached in the case, which was still in an early stage, and any comment was mere speculation. "I appeal for restraint and reason," he said. "Sensitivity rather than sensationalism should be the order of the day."

As he spoke, McLauchlan's parents were making urgent arrangements to fly from Dundee to Dharhan to see their daughter. Ann McLauchlan said: "We just want to be with her. She must be so frightened."

Jonathan Ashbee, Parry's brother-in-law, said that he had been making telephone calls all afternoon to find out what was going on. He added that discussions were being held with the Gilford family, but he did not know whether any agreement had been reached. Of the report that Mr Gilford was seeking $1.2 million, he said: "Of course we cannot afford this sort of sum, but it it is true, we will move heaven and earth to raise the money if we have to. Anything rather than the other appalling option."

Mr al-Hejailan was scathing of Mr Gilford, a courier taxi driver from South Australia, and said: "This should not become some sort of commercial deal, nor a banking transaction. This is a human tragedy. How can Mr Gilford turn an offer of goodwill to a charity from the nurses into a money-making exercise for himself? His demand is outrageous and extortionate."

Of Laurel Gilford's claim that her husband was still considering his options, Mr al-Hejailan said: "Under Saudi law, once he agrees to talk about money, he cannot go back and then demand the death penalty."

Flawed case, page 5
Magnus Linklater, page 20

PETER NICHOLLS



Boatswain, the product of 14 years of cross-breeding, with his owner Ken Mollett

Beckett seeks minimum wage exemption for young people

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Government is considering exempting young people, possibly up to the age of 25, from the national minimum wage.

In a move that will delight business and alarm the unions, ministers are insisting that the full economic impact of a minimum wage must be taken into account when its level is set.

The Government's first indication of how it will handle the sensitive issue of the minimum wage is set out in a letter from Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, to the chairman of the Low Pay Commission.

Mrs Beckett asks the commission to recommend only the "initial level at which the national minimum wage might be introduced". Union leaders, suspicious of the degree of government commitment to a minimum wage, will interpret this as a sign that it may not be uprated once it has been set.

Mrs Beckett asks Professor George Bain, the commission's chairman, to make recommendations on "lower rates or exemptions" for young people. This, she explains, could cover an age range from 16 to as high as 25.

In the letter, sent on Tuesday, Mrs Beckett exhorts the commission to "have regard to the wider social and economic implications" in making its recommendations — a clear signal that the wage should not be set too high.

This is the first time that the Government has specifically indicated that the commission has a responsibility to consider the economic impact of its recommended level. In particular it should take into account the likely effect of a minimum wage on employment, inflation, the competitiveness of business in Britain — and especially small firms — as well as the overall economic point of the "potential impact on the costs to industry and the Exchequer".

When Parliament returns next month, the Government will introduce legislation that will require all employers to pay their employees not less than a figure which will be set by ministers. The Government will decide on the level of a minimum wage based on the recommendation of the commission, with a minimum wage likely to be in place some time in 1999. Companies which fail to comply with the statutory minimum will face legal penalties, although those are as yet unspecified.

Trade union leaders and low-pay pressure groups will be given a fresh target on the minimum wage today by new figures from the Government on national earnings. The minimum wage target of half male median earnings, now £4.42 an hour, is likely to rise under the new figures to about £4.60.

The Government's move comes as business issues its starkest warning yet on the impact of a minimum wage. Using the largest survey of companies, with more than 2,500 firms giving their views, the British Chambers of Commerce say that a national minimum wage set at too high a rate will lead to lost jobs and higher inflation.

The survey shows that with a minimum set at £4.25, three-fifths of companies will be affected. Fifty-eight per cent will respond by cutting jobs, the survey says, while 55 per cent will increase the price of their goods and services.

Commentary 27

Unionists give way over arms

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

AFTER 16 months of procedural wrangling, Northern Ireland's political parties were last night close to the breakthrough required to launch full-scale peace negotiations.

The breakthrough became possible after the Ulster Unionist Party abandoned its long-standing demand for guaranteed IRA disarmament early in the negotiations to demonstrate republican good faith. David Trimble, the UUP leader, conceded after a day of intense wrangling that the agreed formula for moving into substantive negotiations was "not ideal", but insisted that decommissioning would not be "forgotten, sidelined or buried".

He moved swiftly to pre-empt inevitable charges of capitulation from rival Unionist parties that have boycotted the talks. "Why aren't they here arguing for decommissioning and keeping the pressure on for decommissioning? I will not take criticism from people who have given up on decommissioning," he said.

Ken Maginnis, the UUP's security spokesman, said the party had to live in the real world. "We obviously wanted to see total disarmament before any paramilitary organisation was brought to the talks. That was not achieved

Continued on page 2, col 5

Labour suspends Scots councillors

Nine Glasgow councillors at the centre of an alleged "trips-for-votes" scandal were suspended by Labour's national executive in London pending the drawing-up of serious disciplinary charges.

However, many of the most prominent figures, including the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Pat Lally, said they would fight moves which one said had "put the verdict before the trial" .....Page 10

Rules for letting children die

Guidelines for withdrawing medical treatment from children and allowing them to die were set out by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

David Baum, President of the college, said: "We are forced to wrestle with dreadful choices. The list has been drawn up because medical advances make it possible to sustain life without restoring health" ..... Page 6

True bulldog breed reborn

By Lin Jenkins

AN ATTEMPT to restore the bulldog, emblem of all that is great about Britain, to its former glory has been greeted with scorn by the canine establishment.

The efforts of one man to cross the breed and take it back to its Victorian stature, ridding it of modern traits which cause skin disease, respiratory problems and lethargy, have not been greeted with enthusiasm by registered breeders. They maintain that the Victorian bear-baiting dog, symbol of the empire, is unsuitable for modern life. The Kennel Club says people want couch-potato dogs to go with their couch-potato lives.

While bulldog breed clubs and the Kennel Club are united in recognising that the breed needs to iron out some inbreeding problems, they do not think that it should return to its roots.

Ken Mollett now has the fifth generation of his reformed breed after 14 years and is impressed by the improvement. "I am trying to breed a dog which is unmistakenly a bulldog to look at, but who can enjoy a walk," he said. He is disappointed with the response from breeders, but not surprised.

However, he dismissed the idea that since he held up the Victorian dog as an ideal, he was reviving aggressive characteristics. "It is paramount that they are trustworthy. That, and their health, comes before any aesthetic considerations. You have to go back to William IV to find the aggressive characteristics. Bear baiting was abolished in 1835," he said. His four children had grown up with the dogs.



Crib, from an 1817 print

Brian Leonard, of the Kennel Club, said: "There is a degree to which we want couch-potato dogs for couch-potato owners. People want an entertaining character not very interested in exercise."

Mr Mollett, 44, an engineering manager for a lighting company from Pinner, Middlesex, has bred the bulldog with bull mastiffs and Staffordshire bull terriers.

Vera May, who had Best of Breed at Crufts four times in the 1960s, is one of the few breeders to back Mr Mollett, saying: "People need to get back to breed standards."

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Take risks for the real prizes, says Ashdown



"Any more noise and you'll come down and watch the Lib Dem conference"

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

PADDY ASHDOWN told his party yesterday to step into the real world, drop outdated policies and reap the reward of closer co-operation with Labour.

The Liberal Democrat leader used his address to the conference at Eastbourne to hammer home his message that the party had to take the risks of working with Labour even if that meant policy compromises.

"Because this is real politics, there will be real prizes to be won," he said. "The more we agree, the greater the chance that reform will succeed. The more we disagree, the greater the likelihood it will fail."

Echoing Tony Blair's efforts to modernise the Labour Party, he added that said there was no room for "purists" in the Liberal Democrat Party and unless it modernised, it could sink without trace.

The Liberal Democrats should not fall into the traps of "complacency, self-satisfaction, timidity or an excessive concern for our own purity," he said. "If, because of these, we fail to play our part in the changes which are now happening, then our successes on May 1 could just as easily be not a triumphant breakthrough, but a mere footnote of history."

Mr Ashdown had had enough of sitting on the sidelines: talking without being able to do anything. "So where shall we be as the game is played out? Sitting in the stands, safe from the flying boots, clear of the mud?," he asked. "No. I'll tell you where we will be. Not spectators on the sidelines. But on the field, in the game, and right in the middle of the scrum. When the next election comes, I want us to show people that we really have made a difference, just as we promised."

In a bold address, which earned him an enthusiastic standing ovation, Mr Ashdown hinted that the party might have to compromise on its preferred method of proportional representation for Westminster. Delegates backed a motion supporting the single transferable vote — the purest form of PR — but party sources signalled that they would eventually have to accept a less radical system.

But it was Mr Ashdown's warning about the need to drop the party's high tax

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Leading article and Letters, page 21

FROM THE SUPERPOWER AMONGST THRILLER WRITERS

JACK HIGGINS



THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER

New in hardback
Available from all good book retailers

Michael Joseph

Ashdown the entertainer finally beats sleeping sickness

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Sensibly, Liberal Democrats organise their conference so the real climax comes at the end. Thus the President speaks on Tuesday, the leader on Wednesday, and the big debate on euthanasia takes place on the final day, Thursday.

Paddy Ashdown spoke after lunch. It proved hard work. In *The Entertainer*, playwright John Osborne's main character, Archie Rice, treads the boards as an ageing music-hall star, greasepaint running in the heat of the footlights as he works harder every season for his laughs, his sighs and his applause. There is something game, and something poignant, in the struggle.

It was a warm day in Eastbourne. The conference hall ventilation had failed and the atmosphere was stifling. With a mediocre script, a string of bad jokes, pages of unmemorable prose and a single strong idea, Paddy Ashdown — that Archie Rice of 1990s British politics — strutted the stage, doing his nut to rouse them. In the end he succeeded. But how odd that it needed such effort to inspire a party which has just had its best election result for more than sixty years!

There is something troubled in the heart of British Liberalism. On the platform behind the Liberal Democrat leader sat a strange beast. Voters of Harrow East who failed to elect him this spring as their Tory MP may have been surprised to see Hugh Dykes grinning and clapping as Mr Ashdown declaimed a parody of the witches' scene in Macbeth: "Hubble, bubble, toil and trouble. The Tory Party's reduced to rubble ... Eye of Dorrell, toe of Clarke. From Michael Hezza — no more bark."

These were Mr Dykes's friends, once. "We welcome you!" called his new friend. Dykes acknowledged the applause with a shy thumbs-up. Ashdown began a paean of praise for Liberal Democracy. A lady in the balcony went to sleep, her head flopping back. Ashdown explained his plans for the National Audit Office. A bearded gentleman in the stalls slumped forward, comatose. "Support the flowering of talent and creativity in Britain!" cried Ashdown. The eyes of Paul Tyler MP, behind him, suddenly glazed over, as in death. "Rickets re-appearing in our cities!" wailed Paddy. Two ladies at the front fanned themselves like eighteenth century opera-goers. "The problem lies in joblessness and unemployment," he explained. (joblessness *and* unemployment? Cripes!)" ... Start thinking of our economy," he urged, "... not as a single, homogenous economy, but as a two-tier economy."

I saw the first delegate actually standing up, pass out and lurch against a wall. The Liberal Democrat leader spoke of the horrors of what in his pronounciation sounded like "echo-vandalism". Is this the danger of old speeches rebounding? Mr Ashdown ducks as previous commitments to Unilateral Disamarmament (1983), Communitarianism (1995), Free Markets (1990) and Equidistance (1992) bounce back, clattering among the archives.

But 1997 is the New Politics. He railed passionately at his party to be "realistic," co-operating where possible with Labour. Delegates were almost convinced.

I spotted one clapping and shaking his head simultaneously. This caught the mood. They can't fault the argument, they love and respect Paddy, but ... The speech was buoyed by a fine, contemptuous attack on Tory government. But what, some of his audience will have wondered, will replace this in next year's speech?

This year it worked. The hall gave him a heartfelt cheer. Mr Ashdown is secure in this Conference's affections, his leadership unchallenged, his argument offered the benefit of a glazed stare, a sleepy nod, and a half-articulated doubt.

New privacy code aims to eradicate press harassment

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MEASURES to give extra protection to children and end harassment by photographers are expected to be in the revised Press Complaints Commission privacy code to be announced today.

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the PCC, promised the changes would be "dramatic" and said newspaper editors should endorse them with immediate effect. Editors and lay members at yesterday's PCC meeting were told of the proposals, but were not called upon to endorse them officially.

That will considered at a meeting of the PCC's code of practice committee, chaired by Sir David English, although it is thought they will raise little objection. The changes are understood to extend the privacy rights of children into adulthood and make a more formal definition of harassment.

The code's guidance on intrusion into grief is also expected to be tightened. It is expected to extend the definition of private places where people should not be photographed with telephoto lenses to include restaurants and churches in some circumstances and to tighten requirements on papers to establish how and where pictures were taken. Lord Wakeham said: "They will be, I think, a pretty dramatic package of improvements. I would expect editors to deal with them from tomorrow, from day one."

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund received more than £8 million in donations within ten working days of its launch. There have been gifts from 110,000 donors. Credit card pledges, proceeds from the sale of *Candle in the Wind*, profits from CD and video sales, gifts from newspaper readers and tax relief on large donations are not included. The Princess's eldest sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale, has agreed to become a trustee.

Lord Wakeham said he would also suggest curbs on the behaviour of television crews, although it did not fall within the responsibilities of the PCC.

Sir David, Editor in Chief and chairman of Associated Newspapers, suggested that the editors would not automatically approve the changes but said they recognised change was needed. "We have our own proposals. I think it is an industry that is looking very seriously at the way that it has conducted itself, and realises that there have to be changes."

John Witherow, Editor of *The Sunday Times* and a PCC member, said: "He [Lord Wakeham] has some very good proposals which I think the industry will accept." But Mr Witherow added: "It is important that the public interest is there so that wrongdoing is exposed."

The proposals have to be endorsed by professional bodies such as the Newspaper Society before they can be formally adopted into the code of practice in a few weeks' time.

☐ Broadcasting watchdogs have just completed consultation on their own draft privacy code, which was drawn up in July. Stephen Whittle, director of the Broadcasting Standards Commission, said: "We hope we will set a clear standard of conduct."

The code covers accuracy, infringement of privacy, the use of hidden microphones and cameras, doorstepping, interviewing children, people suffering or in distress and care in revisiting traumatic past events.

The new draft establishes an "overriding public interest" test which must be fulfilled before broadcasters can justify an infringement of privacy.



Dr Mowlam walked out after Ken Maginnis claimed she wanted the talks to fail

Mowlam quits talks with irate Unionists

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MO MOWLAM, the Northern Ireland Secretary, walked out of a meeting with Ulster Unionist Party leaders on Tuesday night in another vivid illustration of the fraught relationship between these two key participants in the peace process.

Dr Mowlam left her office in the Stormont conference centre after Ken Maginnis, the Fermanagh MP, claimed that she wanted the process to fail so she and the Irish Government could stitch together a shoddy deal on Northern Ireland's future. The Unionists were accusing the Government of watering down its own words on the need for IRA disarmament in a procedural motion required to start full-scale peace negotiations.

Dr Mowlam was already unhappy, having had had to sit in the conference room that afternoon while Mr Maginnis accused her of knowingly inviting IRA "godfathers" to the negotiating table. This had "diminished democracy, sacrificed the freedom of the people of Northern Ireland to the terrorist and elevated an evil Mafia to a status that would shame any other country in Western Europe," he claimed.

Shortly after walking out Dr Mowlam telephoned David Trimble, the UUP leader, and reconvened the meeting. Apologies were exchanged. Government officials strove to play down the altercation yesterday, calling it "a matter of no great consequence", but this was not an isolated incident.

Last month Mr Trimble, a notoriously irascible man, had a furious row with Dr Mowlam, herself renowned for speaking bluntly, in an anteroom at Number 10 Downing Street. The row spilled over into a meeting with the Prime Minister, and was triggered by a *Belfast Telegraph* interview in which Dr Mowlam had appeared to water down the sacrosanct principle of consent, whereby any constitutional change would require the approval of a majority of Northern Ireland's people.

In July Unionists berated Dr Mowlam after she admitted that Government contacts with Sinn Fein had continued — for the purpose of "clarification" — despite the ban imposed after the IRA shot two policemen in Lurgan one month earlier. Those contacts an assurance that the decommissioning issue would not derail the peace negotiations.

In May they were outraged when Dr Mowlam told the BBC that the settlement train would "leave without the Unionists" if they boycotted the talks because of Sinn Fein's presence. In one sense Dr Mowlam's outspokenness, and her willingness to risk Unionist anger by addressing Sinn Fein's concerns, have paid handsome dividends. She has succeeded in bringing Unionists, loyalist, nationalists and republicans together under the same roof for the first time in Northern Ireland's 76-year-history.

However, Unionists have come to believe that she has in other ways impeded progress.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rail crash inquiry examines safety rules

Safety experts investigating the Southall rail crash have begun an inquiry into how operators are interpreting regulations governing the safety equipment which failed. They will examine the wording of rules and introduce any necessary changes before the public inquiry opens into the accident which killed six people and seriously injured 13 others.

Trains on which the automatic warning system has failed are currently still allowed in service. The system, which alerts the driver if a danger signal is passed, was not working on the high-speed InterCity train.

Jail condemned

Conditions at Barlinnie, Scotland's largest prison, which is running at 51 per cent over capacity, have been labelled a national disgrace by Clive Fairweather, the Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland. He said overcrowding pervaded almost every part of the prison. Mr Fairweather also said that the number of deaths in custody, noted as 15 since the last inspection was held five years ago, was "unacceptably high".

Clearer claiming

Benefit claimants will no longer have to do battle with Department of Social Security gobbledegook, contained in incomprehensible letters churned out by computer, Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary said yesterday. Speaking to the annual conference of the National Association of Citizen's Advice Bureaux, Ms Harman said that the way benefits were administered needed radical reform.

Dealers jailed

A leading member of a £50 million West African heroin and cocaine ring was jailed for 26 years at Woolwich Crown Court yesterday. Olatun Bostun Olaku, 34, from Peckham, south London, was the British organiser for a gang involved in worldwide drug smuggling. His right-hand man Adebowale Shotonwa, 24, from Bermondsey, south London, was also convicted and jailed for 16 years.

Swimmer injured



Britain's number one 200 metre breaststroke swimmer has broken his back in an accident at a training camp on Lanzarote. Andrew Ayres, 21, who is reported to have a fear of confined spaces, fell 20 feet from a window after he became trapped in a toilet. A nurse has flown out to accompany him home to Swansea. The Welsh 100m and 200m record-holder was hoping for success in the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

Race-crime study

Race crimes are being ignored or underplayed by police and the courts despite calls for change, according to research by the Crown Prosecution Service published yesterday. The study shows that police are still failing to identify many cases where race is a motive. The research was based on 1,345 reports of cases between April 1996 and March this year where racial motives were thought to be involved.

Trimble opens way to full peace talks

Continued from page 1

because of our Government. We have to live with that."

The eight parties and the British and Irish Governments were meeting in a full plenary session at Stormont last night.

Provided the precise wording could be agreed in time, they were expected to approve a procedural motion allowing the negotiations to begin on Monday.

That motion was expected to record the UUP's view that decommissioning during the negotiations should be a requirement, but essentially passing the matter to an international body chaired by John de Chastelain, a Canadian general favoured by the Unionists.

The motion was also expected to state unequivocally that consent should be the guiding principle throughout the negotiations. That would prevent the multiparty negotiations reaching any decisions without UUP approval. The negotiations will consist of three strands, one charged with achieving an internal settlement in Northern Ireland, another dealing with North-South relations, and the third with relations between London and Dublin.

The two Governments were also set to reject the UUP's demand for Sinn Fein's expulsion after the IRA's recent disavowal of the Mitchell principles of democracy and non-violence.

The UUP will remain in the peace process, but is expected to attend plenary sessions with Sinn Fein only when that is in its best interests.

Mostly it will engage in bilateral negotiations with the governments and parties other than Sinn Fein.

William Thompson, the West Tyrone MP, signalled the divisions within the UUP by threatening to leave the party if it engaged in direct negotiations with Sinn Fein.

MP defies bombs

BOMB disposal experts yesterday defused a letter bomb sent ot Robert McCartney, leader of the UK Unionist Party. It was the second he had received within weeks. Mr McCartney said last night that he refused to be silenced by terrorists and that they would make him even more diligent. The incendiary-type letter bomb was sent to Mr McCartney at his party office in Bangor, Co Down. Staff became suspicious of it and carried it outside the building before calling the security forces. In July a similar device was sent to Mr McCartney at his office in the Northern Ireland Forum in central Belfast. No organisation has admitted being behind either attack.

Take risks, urges Ashdown

Continued from page 1

and spend policy that formed the bravest part of his speech.

He has already angered activists with suggestions that the party should drop its policy of adding a penny to income tax to boost education. And over the past three days activists have been attacking Labour's failure to spend more on education and the health service — a stance derided as "oppositionitis" by the ministers Peter Mandelson and Alistair Darling. But yesterday Mr Ashdown argued: "We must not allow our defence of decent public services to tempt us into becoming the fossilised defenders of yesterday's state sector. Nor must we become the party which, whatever the Government spends, simply says it will spend more; or whatever the Government cuts, simply promises to restore them."

The Liberal Democrats would continue its campaign of "constructive opposition" and he urged Tony Blair to give more money to hospitals this winter. But he added: "Sometimes it is easier to shout than to talk: to trade insults than to shake hands: to confront than to converse. If we are to make a new start in Britain we must tread the more difficult path. If the Prime Minister is serious — as I believe he is — about changing the culture of our politics, I will work with him on that."

But Mr Ashdown immediately came under attack from William Hague, the Tory leader, who accused him of muting criticisms of the Government to smoothe the relationship between the two parties. "Paddy Ashdown's idea of 'constructive opposition' is to sell his soul to the Labour Party at the first opportunity."

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Top gynaecologist played God with me, says patient

Stephen Farrell reports on the case of a surgeon who removed a woman's ovaries without consent

A LEADING Harley Street gynaecologist was yesterday accused of "playing God" after he admitted removing a 35-year-old woman's ovaries without her consent.

Jacqueline Bartley claimed that John Studd, a leading champion of hormone replacement therapy for post-menopausal women, failed to tell her what he had done even after the operation, leaving her to find out from an insurance bill three weeks later.

Mr Studd, 57, a consultant at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in London and known to colleagues as the "HRT King", faces being struck off if found guilty of serious professional misconduct. He has lectured at international conferences on *hormone replacement* and owned a car with the licence number HRT 1.

Mrs Bartley, now 40, told the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee that she was horrified that her menopause was triggered 15 years early after the private operation on July 23, 1992, at the Lister Hospital in London.

"I felt my whole person had been taken over, that I was just a piece of meat and that's the way I had been treated. This man did not care anything about how I felt. I was just another patient. I didn't matter. I was just somebody in the operating theatre. I felt 6cm high. Luckily I have such a supportive family."

Mr Studd paid Mrs Bartley £32,500 and substantial legal costs in an out-of-court settlement two years ago after she issued a writ seeking damages for assault and battery. The controversy arose after Mrs Bartley, a primary school teacher from Nunhead, South London, agreed to an hysterectomy during corrective surgery to the womb and bladder.

Mr Studd admits removing her ovaries and fallopian tubes during the operation and inserting hormone replacement implants without her consent. However, he claimed to have done so because he found signs of endometriosis, a condition in which the lining of the womb is found in other organs. He also insists he that told her immediately afterwards.

Mrs Bartley said she had initially found Mr Studd a competent and attentive doctor. He had sat on her bed after the operation discussing the Olympic Games. She was adamant, however, that he had never told her what he had done and said she had only found out when she received the bill on August 5



Jacqueline Bartley: felt like "a piece of meat"

detailing extra surgical and drug charges.

She said: "I thought it was a either a mistake in my bill, or somebody else's bill. I then realised that he had taken my ovaries away. I was very, very distressed."

She and her husband, Mike, a chauffeur, confronted Mr Studd in his Harley Street consulting rooms on August 15, 1992, but allegedly found him concerned only with defending his surgical skills. "I asked him, 'Do I have ovaries?' He said, 'No, of course, you know you don't.' My reaction to that was, 'Yes, but you didn't tell me so.'

"He tapped out on his fingers all the things that he said he had supposedly done for me. He said, 'I have cured your heavy periods,' from which I have never suffered. He said, 'I have cured your severe PMT,' from which I didn't suffer.

"He told me that he had found endometriosis and I asked him why he didn't use drugs to treat it."

She claimed Mr Studd offered to pay the cost of the operation, but she refused, taking civil action and bringing him to the General Medical Council, because "I wanted justice".

Rosalind Foster, counsel for Mrs Bartley, said the case struck to the "very heart" of patient choice and trust, adding that that Mr Studd was no stranger to controversy.

The committee was told that, in a letter to the GMC, the surgeon's lawyers pointed out he could never have sustained the pretence that he had removed only her womb, and never tried to. They insisted: "He does not play God, but endeavours always to put the best interests of his patients first."

The hearing was told that Mr Studd believed the surgery was necessary in his clinical judgment because it had reduced the chances of endometriosis recurring, and had cured her of heavy period pains and severe PMT, of which he insisted she had complained. In a note he wrote: "I have no doubts she had the right operations."

Miss Foster, however, insisted there was no urgent need for him to have removed the organs immediately without consulting Mrs Bartley or her husband. She said: "There is simply no medical or surgical justification for Mr Studd to impose his views, no doubt strongly and genuinely felt, upon Mrs Bartley."

A Lister Hospital staff nurse later told the hearing Mr Studd was a caring and professional surgeon who "at all times has the interests of the patients at heart".

The hearing continues.

KARL PROUSE



John Studd and his wife, Margaret, arriving yesterday for the General Medical Council hearing and, below, his consulting rooms in Harley Street



PC's sex bias victory leaves force in the doghouse

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A POLICEMAN's dream of becoming a dog handler was shattered because he was sexually discriminated against in a physical fitness test, a tribunal ruled yesterday.

Police Constable David Allcock, 37, completed an assault course 14 seconds within the limit set for women officers but 46 seconds outside that set for a man.

In a claim against the Chief Constable of the Hampshire force, PC Allcock argued that the extra one minute allowed for women was unfair. That meant he missed out on a possible job because of his sex, he told the tribunal.

The tribunal was told that PC Allcock, who is based at Totton near Southampton, Hants, joined the force 17 years ago and applied for a job as a handler in January.

The fitness test was held at the force's training HQ in Netley and involved a two-mile run, an obstacle course and dragging a 500kg roller. On February 24 this year nine men, including PC Allcock, and a woman took the test.

PC Allcock, who is 6ft 2in tall, said: "I did the course in 16 minutes and 4o seconds and was informed I had failed the test. If I had been a female officer who had completed the course in that time I would have been informed that I passed the test and would have been given an interview for the job.

"I maintain that the test should be equal for everyone, that there should be one standard." He added: "The test should be whether you are fit to be a dog handler rather than a male dog handler."

Under cross-examination, PC Allcock accepted that since 1985 he had applied for a position of dog handler "seven or eight times", all unsuccessfully. For Hampshire Constabulary, Inspector Nicholas Cunningham, who is in charge of the force's dog handling section, said the current test was first introduced in 1993.

He confirmed that currently the force had 29 male dog handlers and just one woman. The 16-minute time limit for men had been set after the average of 20 fit officers taking the course was clocked, Mr Cunningham said.

John Ord, the force's physical training officer, told the tribunal: "Female officers are allowed 17 minutes, the reason being that the tests gave them an allowance because of their physiological differences. Since I have been with Hampshire police, in all tests that have been conducted females have a different amount of time for the running part."



Allcock: took his case to industrial tribunal

He accepted police recruitment tests were currently under review but said he did not know if that meant the time differences between men and women would be removed.

After finding for PC Allcock, the panel adjourned the hearing to allow him and Hampshire police to discuss how they could remedy the situation. If the parties cannot come to an agreement, they will return to the tribunal at a date to be fixed.

'Wizards' guilty of £240,000 con trick

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A COUPLE who used money from property and benefit fraud to fund expensive American trips to qualify as "wizards" with a religious sect were jailed yesterday.

William Kelly, 56, and his mistress Janice Willie, 60, amassed more than £200,000 from mortgage fraud and a further £43,000 from bogus income support claims.

The couple, from Horrabridge, Devon, visited Florida four times to study the Avatar system, which professed to offer a "natural path to self-evolvement and self-responsibility. They returned as qualified "Master Wizards of Avatar", having spent more than £30,000.

They planned to preach a similar "gospel" in England, advertising as Vibrant Health, but were arrested after returning to Britain.

At Southwark Crown Court yesterday the Recorder William Boyce jailed Kelly for 15 months and Willie for six months. The couple were convicted on one count of conspiracy to defraud and nine of furnishing false information.

Drug smugglers caught in Customs sting are jailed

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A GANG of drug smugglers who handed over a £10 million pound cargo of cannabis to undercover Customs officers have been jailed for between eight and 14 years.

During the case an informer claimed the plot was inspired by one of the ringleaders in the £26 million Brinks-Mat gold bullion robbery. Michael McAvoy, who is serving 25 years for the bullion raid, was said to have contacted one of the organisers from Long Lartin prison.

Exeter Crown Court was told that Customs officers tipped off by the informer mounted a sting operation to seize a cargo of cannabis en route from Holland. About four tonnes of cannabis resin was transferred from the yacht *Fata Morgana* to a tug crewed by four undercover Customs men. They had been waiting 30 days for the rendezvous and were nearly out of food and water.

The operation almost foundered when the 56-ton tug sank in 13,000 feet of water in the Bay of Biscay after the pick-up in October 1996. The four undercover Customs men spent several hours in a life raft before being picked up by a German-registered container ship.

They then took part in a second "sting" which ended in the arrest of a shore party waiting in Falmouth to collect the drug cargo. With the original cargo lost, Customs delivered cannabis from past seizures.

Yesterday Judge Sean Overend sentenced David Huck, 51, to 14 years imprisonment for captaining the *Fata Morgana*. Huck has been under suspicion by Customs as a top smuggler for 18 years.

Michael Allsop, 32, of Hayes, West London, and Norman Hitchins, 34, from Harlingham, West London, were sentenced to 12 years each. Leslie Jay, 37, of Cardiff, who was in charge of the shore party, got ten years. Paul Davis, 45, and Raymond Gilholm, 46, both from Bristol, were each given nine years as organisers. David Bannister, 43, and his brother Michael, 39, both from Hull, were given eight years.

Boys of 10 youngest in court on rape charge

BY ADRIAN LEE

TWO ten-year-old boys yesterday became the youngest defendants to appear in a British court on rape charges when they were accused of attacking a nine-year-old girl in a lavatory block at their school in West London.

Another ten-year-old boy and an 11-year-old are accused of indecently assaulting the girl during the same alleged incident, on May 6, at the inner-city primary school, which cannot be named.

The case was transferred from West London Youth Court, in Hammersmith, to the Old Bailey, at the request of the Crown Prosecution Service. The four boys, who sat in line, were given bail until their appearance at the Crown Court, on a date to be fixed. No pleas were taken.

Relatives of the boys sat behind them and, as they were asked to give their names and ages. One of the four had to be helped with his date of birth. Their legal aid was extended.

A fifth boy escaped prosecution because he is aged nine, below the age of criminal responsibility.

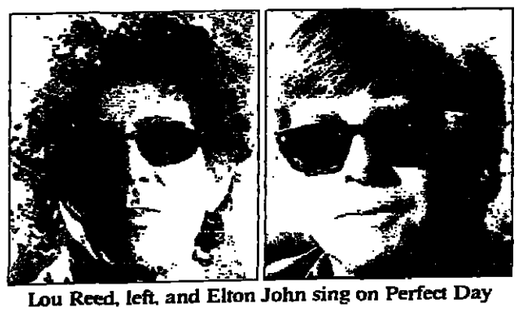
ITV rains on Auntie's perfect day

BY CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC faced a wave of protest from its commercial rivals last night over a new promotion in which stars ranging from Elton John to the opera singer Lesley Garrett sing their endorsement of the corporation.

Advertisers and commercial organisations said the four-minute video, in which stars each sing a line from Lou Reed's song *Perfect Day*, amounted to a campaign which gave the BBC an unfair advantage over its rivals. They plan to report the BBC to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary.

The BBC said the purpose of the video, estimated to have cost £2 million and being screened on BBC1 and BBC2 until next month, was to show how it catered for everyone's musical tastes. All 29 artists charged a nominal £250 to appear. The promotion has been so successful that there are plans to launch it as a charity CD for Christmas.



Lou Reed, left, and Elton John sing on Perfect Day

Rival organisations said that, to book the same airtime, at 5pm on a Saturday, would have cost £124,000 on ITV and £50,837 on Channel 4, but they were not allowed to advertise on the BBC. They were also angry that the BBC planned to screen the video in cinemas nationwide.

Paul Brown, chief executive of the Commercial Radio Companies Association, said: "The BBC automatically enjoys, because of its public funding and the nature of what they do, a significant cross-promotional advantage." He said the video was clearly an advertising campaign because it was made for cinema and would be shown to cinema audiences for a fee.

An executive for the ITV network said: "It is a stunning piece of work, but we are not sure whether it is an appropriate way to spend licence-payers' money."

Lou Reed said he was delighted with the BBC's version of his song.



J. P. TOD'S BOUTIQUE : 35 Sloane Street SW1 London. Harrod's and Joseph



Rubber sole ankle boot in chocolate suede

Field follows friendly road to welfare reform

Minister is talking to mutual societies about role, writes **Alexandra Frean**

FRIENDLY societies and other mutual organisations, founded in the 18th and 19th centuries to provide insurance-based welfare for the working classes, are to play a key part in the Government's shake-up of the welfare state.

Frank Field, the Minister for Welfare Reform, said yesterday that he was talking to mutual groups, including building societies, about how they could play a substantial role in welfare provision from pensions and long-term care to unemployment benefits and help for the sick and disabled.

Because they were non-profitmaking and not answerable to City shareholders, mutual societies were accountable chiefly to their members and embodied the principles of self-help that the new Labour government was keen to promulgate, he said. Their role could be in providing tax-efficient insurance funds to cover sickness, unemployment, retirement or long-term care.

In his first major public address since the election, Mr Field, who is spearheading the government reform of social security with a mandate to "think the unthinkable", said there were still more than ten million members of friendly societies in Britain. "These organisations are membership bodies based on the ideas of self-help, work, savings and honesty. It is around precisely these principles that the Government wishes to reform welfare — and mutual societies will have a more significant role to play in the future than they have had in the immediate past," he said. Mr Field said that taxpayers were no longer prepared simply to let government take their money and spend it as it thought fit. They they were equally suspicious of big City institutions.



Frank Field: backing principles of self-help

"Are they wise to put their faith in companies which have a track record of mis-selling pensions, as do many of our larger financial institutions? It is at this point that mutual societies are provided with a window of opportunity," he told a seminar in London sponsored by the insurance company Consolidated Financial Insurance.

Friendly societies and other mutual bodies played a major part in the provision of welfare services up to 1945. At the beginning of this century there were millions of members across the social spectrum.

When the first steps were taken towards national insurance in 1911, friendly societies and mutual institutions both delivered the system on behalf of the Government and supplemented standard benefit levels for those who subscribed to them.

Mr Field added that he would also like to see the creation of new community-based welfare organisations to help the disadvantaged, particularly for retired people who might otherwise become isolated from the rest of society.

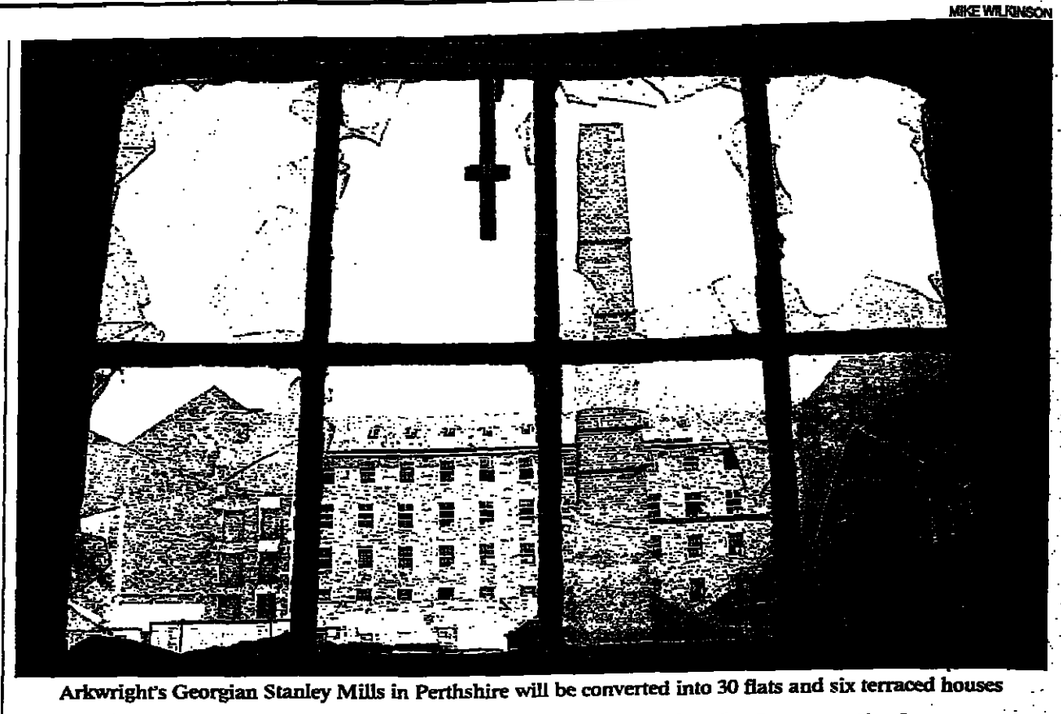
He is pressing for new structures of welfare so that the link between poverty in a working life and isolated retirement can be broken. "Retirement should never be an entry gate to exclusion," he said. "New structures can offer new hope."

They key to welfare reform, Mr Field said, was to break out of the "welfare equals State" mentality and to make people take more responsibility.

"The Government's version of welfare for the new millennium cannot be a one-way street and those who benefit from taxpayers' money have a responsibility to help themselves," he added.

"A new partnership can only work if both sides pull their weight. We are pledged to break the destructive mould of welfare in which Government's only responsibility is to write the cheque and the recipient's only responsibility is to cash it."

MIKE WILKINSON



Arkwright's Georgian Stanley Mills in Perthshire will be converted into 30 flats and six terraced houses

Prince helps to save vanishing history

BY MARCUS BINNEY

THE Prince of Wales will tomorrow launch a project to save some of Britain's largest and grandest historic buildings from decay.

The first project of the new Phoenix Trust will be the restoration of Stanley Mills in Perthshire. These imposing Georgian buildings stand on the River Day and are among the most romantically situated of the great textile mills built during the Industrial Revolution.

Two four and five storey buildings will be converted into 30 flats or maisonettes and six four-storey terrace houses, most with views over the river. When the mills closed in 1989, both buildings were threatened with demolition. They have their origin in a dispute over patents which led the great Sir Richard Arkwright, father of the modern factory system, "to seek a razor in Scotland to shave Manchester". The original Bell Mill built by Arkwright is being restored by Historic Scotland and will be open to the public.

The director of the new trust is Kit Martin, who over the past 20 years has rescued ten country houses from decay, including Burley-on-the-Hill in Rutland, bought from the receivers of Asil Nadir, Gunton Hall in Norfolk, abandoned after a sale of the contents, and The Hazells in Bedfordshire, which the former Foreign Secretary Lord Pym was seeking to demolish.

The chairman of the trust is David Taylor, former chief executive of English Partnerships and a pioneer of private and public sector involvement in urban regeneration. The Prince will act as president.

The trust is negotiating to acquire historic buildings all over Britain. Among them is Crom Castle in Northern Ireland, which stands in 2,000 acres belonging to the National Trust. The estate is laid out around a chain of lakes with walled gardens. The trust is hoping to convert the house into homes with minimal alterations.

Writing in this month's *Perspectives*, the Prince says: "Personally, I am not prepared to sit back and see this great legacy needlessly squandered."

EXAMPLE: A COUPLE (MALE AND FEMALE) MOVING HOME, BOTH NON-SMOKERS, AGED 29, APPLYING FOR A FIXED RATE MORTGAGE OF £80,000 LINKED TO A PEP POLICY SECURED OVER 25 YEARS ON A PROPERTY WITH A PURCHASE PRICE OF £64,000. MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENT NET OF TAX RELIEF £298.32. 300 MONTHLY PAYMENTS. MONTHLY PEP PREMIUM £96.76. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £19,186, INCLUDES ADDITIONAL MORTGAGE SECURITY FEE £870, CONVEYANCER'S CHARGES £117.50, MORTGAGE DISCHARGE FEE £40, CHARGE FOR DEDUCTION OF TITLE DEEDS £15, ARRANGEMENT FEE £195 AND INITIAL INTEREST OF £177.65 ASSUMING COMPLETION ON 15.10.97. NO PROVISION FOR EARLY REPAYMENT HAS BEEN MADE. IN CALCULATING THE APR, THE EXAMPLE ASSUMES A RATE OF 6.45% (LIFE APR APPLIES THROUGHOUT THE MORTGAGE TERM, HOWEVER AT THE END OF THE FIXED RATE PERIOD THE STANDARD VARIABLE BASE RATE WILL APPLY WHICH IS CURRENTLY 6.45%. WE HAVE ALSO ASSUMED THAT A VALUATION FEE OF £265 HAS BEEN WAIVED. RATES QUOTED ARE VARIABLE AFTER 30.09.2000. APR SHOWN IS TYPICAL FOR A PEP MORTGAGE FOR 25 YEARS. ALL FIXED RATES DEPEND ON THE LOAN AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OR VALUATION WHICHEVER IS LOWER, AND THE FIXED RATE PERIOD. OUR STANDARD VARIABLE BASE RATE WILL APPLY AFTER THE FIXED RATE PERIOD. AN ARRANGEMENT FEE WILL BE PAYABLE. SEE YOUR LOCAL OFFICE FOR DETAILS. A REPAYMENT FEE IS ONLY PAYABLE IF THE MORTGAGE IS REPAID OR TRANSFERRED TO AN ALTERNATIVE PRODUCT DURING THE REPAYMENT FEE PERIOD. PART REPAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO PAYMENT OF A PROPORTION OF THE REPAYMENT FEE. A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS LEGAL FEES OF £1,000 IS AVAILABLE FOR LOANS OF £100,000 OR MORE. FOR LOANS OF LESS THAN £100,000 THE CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS LEGAL FEES IS £500 (£400 FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS). HA FREE SCHEME 1 VALUATION, UP TO A MAXIMUM OF £405, IS ONLY AVAILABLE FOR MORTGAGE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BEFORE 31.10.97. FOR SCOTLAND THE COST OF A FREE SCHEME 1 VALUATION (LESS £25 ADMINISTRATION FEE) WILL BE REFUNDED ON RECEIPT OF COMPLETED MORTGAGE APPLICATION FORMS. ALL PRODUCTS AND OTHER OFFERS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND MAY BE WITHDRAWN WITHOUT NOTICE. MAXIMUM LOAN 95%* OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OR VALUATION, WHICHEVER IS LOWER (90%* FOR REMORTGAGES, 75% FOR SECOND HOME LOANS AND EXPATRIATE MORTGAGES). LOWER LIMITS APPLY WHERE THE PURCHASE PRICE AND VALUATION EXCEED £150,000. ADDITIONAL MORTGAGE SECURITY IS REQUIRED IF THE LOAN EXCEEDS OUR BASIC LENDING LIMIT OF 75%* OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OR VALUATION WHICHEVER IS LOWER, FOR WHICH A FEE WILL BE CHARGED. LOANS MUST BE SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, ARE SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED ON AN APPLICANT'S EXISTING PROPERTY MUST NORMALLY BE REPAID ON OR BEFORE COMPLETION OF THE NEW MORTGAGE. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST FROM YOUR LOCAL OFFICE OR HALIFAX plc, TRINITY ROAD, HALIFAX, WEST YORKSHIRE HX1 2RG.

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Latest lottery fund 'threatens other projects'

BY PETER FOSTER

THE heads of four bodies that distribute lottery cash yesterday warned the Government over its plans to introduce a sixth good cause to support initiatives in health, education and the environment.

The lottery chiefs — including Earl Gowrie, the Arts Council chairman, and David Sieff, chairman of the National Lottery Charities Board — expressed concern that the proposals would cause excessive bureaucracy and reduce the amount of cash available for existing lottery projects.

Their remarks came at a conference where Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, outlined his plans to set up the New Opportunities Fund using £1 billion of lottery cash. The fund, detailed in a White Paper published earlier this year, will be used to create after-school clubs, healthy living centres and to train teachers in computing and information technology.

The group including Derek Casey, chief executive of the English Sports Council, and Lord Rothschild, chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund, also gave a warning that lottery money must not replace core government funding in health and education.

Mr Sieff, the former executive director of Marks & Spencer, said that there was a danger the New Opportunities Fund would be expensive to set up and duplicate the work of his charities board. Urging the Government "not to reinvent the wheel", he said his board was distributing grants to many organisations to be targeted by the new fund.



Lord Gowrie: fears Arts Council will suffer

Mr Casey, chief executive of the English Sports Council, said investment programmes planned by the council might have to be put on hold.

Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council of England, admitted he had "very serious worries" that it would be left with less money. The council had committed vast sums to capital projects including the controversial Royal Opera House grant.

Mr Smith reassured delegates that the new £1 billion fund had been made possible by the unforseen success of the National Lottery. "But the five current distributors, over the course of the franchise period, will still each received the £1.8 billion share they were originally promised," he said.

Blunkett gets lesson in business school

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

AN ATTEMPT by ministers to persuade companies to put more money into education backfired yesterday when a top businessman urged the Government to use more of its own money to help schools to raise standards.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, held a breakfast meeting with senior figures from business and industry as part of an effort to revive corporate sponsorship of education. He announced a £1 million network of homework and after-school centres funded partly by the NatWest Bank, National Power and BT.

Mr Blunkett promised twice-yearly education summits with business leaders, and pointed to future opportunities for co-operation.

"Business has a vital role in helping us to raise standards. We must work together to ensure that our young people are better motivated and therefore more employable," he said.

However, there was a sting in the tail of the businessmen's contribution. John Baker, Chairman of National Power, said the Government should be spending more on education, and offered business support for it to be given a greater share of public expenditure.

Mr Baker said: "At a time when we have fewer good graduates entering teaching and shortages of experienced head teachers, I see no alternative to the Government facing up to the need to adequately fund schools and the teaching profession."

Yesterday's initiative will establish pilot projects for the homework centres and after-school clubs to be funded from National Lottery money.

Doubts that taint Saudi police case

Defence lawyers say the murder case against two British nurses would not stand up to scrutiny in a Western court, reports ***Daniel McGrory***



The nurses's lawyers, Peter Watson, centre, and Rodger Pannone, right, are ready to present details of inconsistencies in the investigation

SAUDI investigators were certain that they had Yvonne Gilford's killers standing before them in the interrogation room at Dhahran police station. They claimed to have caught Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan using their murdered colleague's bank card.

What happened in the next 32 hours, however, has tainted the police case. Officers say they obtained signed confessions from the women that Miss Gilford was involved in a lesbian relationship with them. They also hinted at revealing the Australian staff nurse's money-lending operation, with which she was said to have extorted large payments and sex from young nurses.

Parry and McLauchlan's version of events at the police station is different to that of their interrogators. They say that they were sexually abused, beaten and threatened to make them sign bogus confessions.

Senior Saudi officials have admitted the police were so confident of the veracity of the confessions that they did not scrupulously examine the forensic evidence.

The accused were arrested at the Arab National Bank on December 18, a week after Miss Gilford was killed, and were taken to Dhahran police station.

McLauchlan, 31, from Dundee, claims that her handbag was taken from her on her arrest and that in the police station it was returned with Miss Gilford's bank card in it.

She said she was shouted at and called "a thief and a harlot", slapped on the face and breasts and ordered to remove her dress. She said she was asked about her sexual affair with Miss Gilford while police touched her intimately, and one officer said he was going to rape her.

Only after she signed a confession was she allowed to sit down and dress herself. In her statement to her lawyers she said: "After 32 hours without sleep, I am willing to do or write anything to stop the physical, psychological and sexual abuse."

Parry, 38, from Alton, Hampshire, claims to have suffered the same mistreatment. "I was told I had killed Yvonne because we were having a lesbian relationship. I was sobbing wth fear as I had not killed anyone and she was my friend," she told lawyers.

Parry said that several policemen stroked her body and a cigarette was held close to her eyes.

Parry claims that, after hours of abuse, McLauchlan was pushed into the room and announced: "Debbie stabbed Yvonne in the neck, back and chest."

No substantiating evidence of Miss Gilford's sexuality and her money-lending activities was produced in court. Defence lawyers want to know why police did not reopen the files on a Filipina nurse stabbed in the medical complex a year before, whose murderer has never been found. They also want to know what the police investigation discovered from security guards at the complex.



Frank Gilford, brother of the dead nurse

Guards operated their own money-lending scheme and defence lawyers said they told Miss Gilford not to jeopardise their lucrative sideline.

Five security guards were arrested before the two nurses. All were sacked. One disappeared and two, believed to have been on duty the night Miss Gilford died, were later found badly beaten. One is thought to be related to a member of the team who obtained the confessions.

Defence lawyers are ready to present what they say are the glaring inconsistencies in the inquiry. Private investigators say medical experts who have examined the autopsy reports on Miss Gilford believe that the fatal knife blow was too powerful to have been delivered by a woman.

The autopsy showed that the kitchen knife was plunged into her back, went through her ribcage and pierced her heart.

Although Miss Gilford was stabbed 13 times and bludgeoned with a number of ornaments in her apartment, no fingerprints, bloodstains or any other forensic evidence was discovered to incriminate the Britons.

Detectives found blonde hair gripped in Miss Gilford's hand after the struggle to fight off her attacker. Neither of the accused has blonde hair. Nor have police explained the man's gold bracelet found on Miss Gilford's bedroom floor.

Not once during the trial did the Islamic judges study the evidence, the lawyers say. "All they looked at were the two confessions, which had been retracted. Never once did they examine how flimsy and circumstantial the evidence is," a source said.

A lawyer for Parry and McLauchlan told *The Times* yesterday that they and Miss Gilford were told they could not leave the hospital complex without a supervisor knowing where they were going, and that they were often followed.

Yet the Saudi police allege that on four occasions the accused used Miss Gilford's stolen bank card to draw money from a cash machine. "Would they try this if they knew they were being followed? And why wait for them to use the card four times before arresting them?"

One legal source said "the police were so confident the that confessions were enough that they got sloppy in their investigation.

"Their work would not stand up to scrutiny in a British or Western court but the Saudi judges did not examine the evidentiary material, just the confessions. Whether an appeal court does otherwise is a big doubt."

Wealthy lawyer is key player in trial

BY A STAFF REPORTER

IN THE nine months since the two British nurses were arrested for murdering their Australian colleague, only a handful of men have known the precise details of the case against them and the efforts to spare them from Saudi Arabia's medieval punishments.

The key figure is Salah al-Hejailan, the flamboyant and wealthy head of a leading Riyadh firm. He is one of the best-known lawyers in the country who sees himself as a constructive critic of its justice system.

His eponymous law firm has defended the nurses free of charge and paid for their families to visit them on several occasions. "We've spent hundreds and hundreds of hours on this case," said one of his employees.

His critics say he hopes the benefit will be that when Western corporations find themselves in conflict in Saudi Arabia they will hire his firm. He is well-connected in Saudi society; one of his brothers is the country's ambassador to Australia and is thought to have been a key figure in negotiations with Frank Gilford, the brother of the murder victim.

Now in his mid-50s, Mr Hejailan trained in America and Egypt and has practised as a lawyer for 35 years. He is the legal counsel in Riyadh afor the British Embassy among others, and his firm is associated with prominent law firms in several countries. He has helped defend Britons in Saudi Arabia for more than two decades.

"I have settled small debts, provided legal service to them, looked after them in many ways and I have a special fund in my law firm for this sort of goodwill work," he said in a recent interview. "I am particularly interested in cases that can have an impression on the legal system." He believes the nurses' high profile murder case has highlighted the "clash of civilisations" between Saudi Arabia and the West but says it could help reform the Saudi legal system. Allowing the nurses to have lawyers present in court has already broken the mould which he hopes will be the pattern for the future.

Mr Hejailan has spent much of the nurses' trial flying all over the world, with visits to the South of France, London, Virginia and Alaska, all the time directing their defence from a high-technology mobile office manned by at least one secretary travelling with him.

THE TIMES on Saturday



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Cook to discuss sentence

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ROBIN COOK will hold talks today that could determine whether the sentence of 500 lashes imposed by a Saudi court on one of the two nurses will be carried out.

In discussions with Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi Foreign Minister, Mr Cook will underline the abhorrence such a sentence has aroused in Britain. But he will make clear that the Government fully recognises the authority of the court and *sharia* law, and is hoping that judicial review of the case may lead to mitigation. He will emphasise to Prince Saud the fierce reaction in Britain if the court orders the beheading of Deborah Parry.

The Government has repeatedly emphasised that the appeals procedure still had a long way to go, probably as a result of urgent Foreign Office advice that tough talk denouncing the Saudis or implying that their justice system was flawed would harden opinion in Riyadh.

On coming to office, Labour made much of the moral dimension of foreign policy and implied that it would take a tougher line towards governments that it considered violated human rights. Mr Cook's initial comment that the sentence on Lucille McLauchlan was "wholly unacceptable in the modern world" has been described by many Arabists as a blunt judgment that may anger the Saudi authorities, especially the Islamic courts.

However, Mr Cook knows that the case can be resolved only by quiet diplomacy, and that Britain is powerless to do anything except appeal for clemency.

Plea to use nursing skills

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

BOTH nurses have pleaded with Saudi officials to let them work in the hospital wing of Damman central prison in an attempt to get out of their overcrowded cell.

Amid fears that both women cannot survive a possible further two-year legal wrangle, Lucille McLauchlan's brother, John, said yesterday that both women had weakened considerably over the last few weeks. He said that a British doctor who was allowed to examine the women last month said that they are now extremely frail and are prone to potentially fatal infections if they continue to live in their cramped and cockroach-infested cell in temperatures of more than 45C.

Their only hope now, they believe, is to sell their skills to the Saudi authorities. Both women have already used their nursing expertise to tend to the ten other women and their children in their shared cell, but face rejection now.

Both are said to have lost weight and to suffer constant diarrhoea and stomach cramps, while Deborah Parry has been given psychiatric help for depression after inmates told how she woke in the night screaming.

McLauchlan, however, has defiantly denounced her jailers and conducts her meetings with her family in impenetrable Dundee dialect. She has also kept a diary.

Their poor diet also means both women have lost a great deal of hair. They wash by pouring a basin of water on themselves over open sewers. The lavatories are said to be choked with soiled nappies as many of the women there have their infants with them.

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Five new rules on letting sick children die

Doctors have been given ethical guidance on a terrible decision, writes **Ian Murray**

FIVE situations in which doctors should consider withdrawing medical treatment from children and allowing them to die were set out by a panel of experts yesterday.

The guidelines say the decision is warranted where the child is brain dead or in a permanent vegetative state; where care delays death without easing suffering; where the child survives so physically or mentally impaired that it is unreasonable to expect it to suffer further; or where the illness is so progressive and irreversible that further treatment is intolerable.

The recommendations have been produced by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, whose president, David Baum, said: "We are forced to wrestle with *dreadful choices. The list* has been drawn up because modern medical advances make it possible to sustain life without restoring health."

The new guidelines say that agreement between parents and doctors about withdrawing treatment should be unanimous and the child should also be involved if old enough. "Children take great care of their paediatricians and nurses," said Dr Baum. "They know when to give a nod and wink if they are ready to go."

Neil McIntosh, Professor of Child Health at Edinburgh University and chairman of the college's ethics advisory committee which produced the report, said: "Children usually come to the decision even before we approach them."

If parents want healthcare to continue even though their child is in one of the five categories, the college says the health team should go to court for legal backing to withdraw it. "If the healthcare continues in these circumstances it can become an assault." Dr McIntosh said. "The court can hear expert evidence and assessments from both sides and reach an independent decision. The parents do not have an absolute veto.

"Every paediatrician has to make decisions about whether to withhold treatment every year. By drawing all these perspectives together, what we are trying to do is put these decision in context and come up with a common procedure that is appropriate.

"Doctors must always allow children and parents the right to disagree and these difficult decisions should never be hurried."

The list was drawn up following a House of Lords select committee finding in 1994 that withdrawal of medical treatment might in future not be rare. Parents and patient groups, severely handicapped youngsters, lawyers and religious groups were all consulted during the two-year deliberations.

Some of the guidelines were immediately condemned by anti-abortion and anti-euthanasia groups. Jack Scarisbrick, national chair of the charity Life, said: "Some of these proposals are *quite* acceptable. There always comes a point when it is not only right to withhold treatment but it would be wrong to persist. However, there does appear to be a sinister side to this document — it appears to be promoting euthanasia under the guise of old medical ethics."

Mother 'killed' by wasp is revived six times

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN whose heart stopped six times in 15 minutes after she was stung in the throat by a wasp was saved by a teacher and two passers-by who gave her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and heart massage.

Monica Stewart, 31, was stung as she collected her two children from Ferguslie Primary School in Paisley, Renfrewshire. Each time her heart stopped, Jim Ellis, the school's assistant head, and Ina Jordan and Katrina Piggot, who were also collecting their children, managed to restart it. Ms Jordan said: "I only knew what to do because I've just started a first aid class."

Ms Stewart had just collected her daughters, Christine, 11, and Natalie, 9, when a wasp began buzzing around her. She said: "I ran away from the children and the wasp went for my face. It must have gone into my mouth because I felt a nip in my throat and then coughed something up. And that's all I *remember.*"

Ms Jordan said she and Mrs Piggot were waiting for their children when they saw Mr Ellis running over to Ms Stewart, who was unconscious. "He gave her mouth-to-mouth rescuscitation and we started to give her heart massage," Ms Jordan said. "One moment Monica was breathing, the next she had stopped breathing. Each time I felt her pulse there was no beat. Again and again we were successful in getting her heart restarted.

"It was a real fight to keep her alive, but it's a joy to see her recovering. What an ordeal for her and for her children, who saw everything that was going on."

Ms Stewart was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley and given an injection and tablets to ease the swelling in her throat. She said: "I've always hated wasps and bees and insects like that, but after what happened to me I never want to see a wasp again. They scare me stiff. When I feel better I plan to say a big thank you to the three people who saved my life."

Funeral firms face 'cash for corpses' claim

BY ROBIN YOUNG

FUNERAL directors complained yesterday that unscrupulous competitors were offering "cash for corpses" at old people's homes.

Staff at homes had been offered money to place dead people in shrouds bearing the corporate logo of funeral companies, the Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors said.

Nursing homes had also been offered contributions to residents' funds if they registered deaths with a particular funeral company, thus virtually ensuring those firms future business, according to Tony Warburton, an executive committee member of the society.

The society blames the decline in undertaking standards on the growth of large commercial conglomerates, and has urged the Government to take action. Mr Warburton said "inappropriate, aggressive marketing tactics" were threatening professional standards across the country.

Mr Warburton, director of the East Riding Crematorium at Octon, Yorkshire, and a partner in the Hull funeral directors John Parkin and Sons, said bigger businesses had tried to buy him out, but he had refused, preferring to adhere to "British traditions".

He said that the whole funeral profession would be brought into disrepute if the Government did not take action. He wanted funeral companies to be forced to disclose their ownership, and claimed that more than 750 trading under family names were in fact owned by multinational businesses.

Andrew Harvey, national president of the society, said: "The society has new evidence of inappropriate sales tactics being employed to influence the recently bereaved, pensioners and nursing home staff in order to secure instructions for funeral arrangements and sales of prepaid funeral plans.

"Throughout generations those involved within the funeral profession have served bereaved families with the highest degree of professional and ethical integrity. We have a vital duty to stand up for the traditional values of our profession. These values are now in danger of being eroded by unacceptable commercial practices."

The society, which represents more than 500 independent funeral directors, is coordinating a Campaign for Fair Funeral Practices, and is *appealing for people who felt* they were subjected to high-pressure sales tactics to make contact.

Spokesmen for large funeral companies said yesterday that all undertakers tried to offer sympathetic support to old people's homes in their area. They denied improper behaviour, and said that all staff were required to adhere to codes of conduct.



The Right Rev David Sheppard and his wife, Grace, yesterday. He reiterated that poverty was a spiritual issue that ought to concern the clergy

Bishop bows out with appeal on jobless

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

IN HIS farewell sermon last night, the Bishop of Liverpool delivered an impassioned plea to politicians and churchmen to fight the corrosive effects of mass joblessness. He also defended his belief that poverty is a spiritual issue.

The Right Rev David Sheppard, 68, bowed out at an emotional ecumenical service in Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral after 22 years as bishop to the Merseyside diocese. He used the occasion to send a message to the *Government and senior ranks of the* Church of England to adopt radical solutions to mass unemployment.

He told the congregation that he had once attended a public meeting where someone had asked him: "You know these powerful people. Why don't you tell them how things are?"

Bishop Sheppard said: "Well, I have tried to. Not always successfully perhaps. The biggest regret I have is this: when we came in 1975 there was mass unemployment in many parts of the diocese. As I leave in 1997 there is *still mass unemployment or dead-end* jobs in those same areas. I pray the churches will run and run with the *Report on Unemployment and the Future of Work.* The report reminds us of the old belief that God has a calling for everyone — a calling to work, a responsibility to make their particular contribution — and that is why the report produces the bracing and costly call for 'enough good work for everyone' and shows how it is possible." The ecumenical churches' report was published early this year.

Bishop Sheppard said that some people still wondered whether poverty was a spiritual issue and the rightful concern of the clergy. He quoted from a letter written to him by a parish vicar about a man who got a job after four years of unemployment only to find that his ability to keep that post had crumbled. Bishop Sheppard added that unemployment attacked "the very heart of somebody's humanity; it taps at their dignity. Can we say that it is not a spiritual issue?"

Driver in fatal crash had worked 16 hours

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A LORRY driver who left a trail of carnage when the arm of a mechanical digger swung out in front of oncoming cars had worked for 16 hours and driven 500 miles, a court was told yesterday.

Mark Wade had no training or proper supervision and made a series of fatal errors before the crash, which left five motorists dead after the digger bucket sliced through their cars at head height.

The roofs of the cars were peeled back by the bucket and four drivers and one backseat passenger were killed instantly. Those on the passenger side were only injured in the accident at Castle-an-Dinas, near Newquay, Cornwall, in December 1995.

Truro Crown Court was told that the 31-year old driver had failed to secure the arm of the digger on his lowloader either with a pin provided specially for the purpose, or a chain available as a back-up. The jury was told that tiredness may have caused him to load the digger incorrectly, so that the arm was not lying flat against the bed of the lorry and could swing out when its hydraulic system failed.

A driver who saw the arm swing out as Mr Wade took a left-hand bend tried in vain to warn him by flashing his lights, but the Volvo transporter carried on and hit four cars.

The court was told how the accident happened in the dark on an unlit country road and the victims did not have time to take avoiding action before the heavy metal bucket struck.

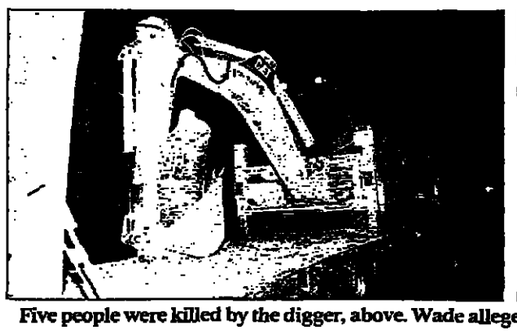
Mr Wade, 31, of St Columb Major, near Newquay, denies five counts of causing death by dangerous driving. Each charge refers to a victim of the tragedy. They were Gwynneth Moore, 31, an amateur runner, and Kristy Green, 19, a beautician, both from Bodmin; William Barratt, 54, an agricultural contractor, Lewis Mark Trebilcock, 28, a farmer, and Hilary Cocks, 43, a chef, all from Newquay.

Bazeley Plant Hire, of St Columb Major, and Chepstow Plant Hire both deny charges of conducting an undertaking in a way which exposed others to danger.

Charles Barton, QC, for the prosecution, said that, although Mr Wade was nominally self-employed, Bazeley and its parent company, Chepstow, bore a share of the blame because of the hours he worked and his lack of training. Mr Wade had started work at 2.30am, 16 hours before the crash. By the time of the crash he had driven for nearly 12 hours.

Mr Barton added: "The oncoming drivers only saw the lowloader's dipped headlights and had no idea that an enormous object was coming towards them at a height of about 3ft."

The trial continues.





Five people were killed by the digger, above. Wade allegedly failed to secure its arm

Self-destruct disc aims to thwart video pirates

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

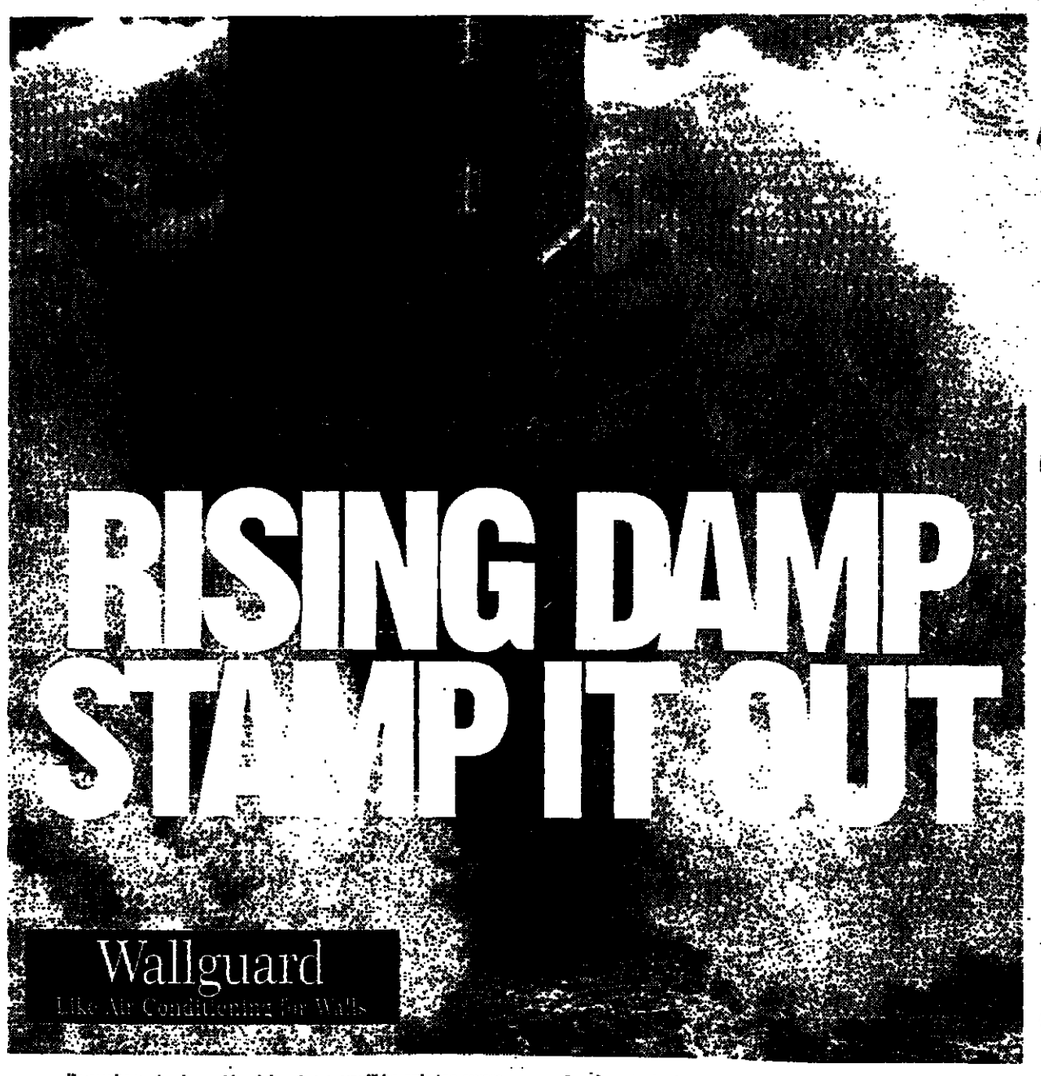
A VIDEO disc that self-destructs, rather like the instructions in *Mission Impossible*, has been developed by researchers. The system could stop the pirating of tapes from rented videos.

The video disc has a computer chip that gives it a 24-hour life. The technology is based on digital video discs, the film versions of compact discs.

The Digital Video Express (Divx) consortium, based in Virginia, is pushing the idea of developing the discs for the video rental market. It has convinced Hollywood studios, including Disney, Paramount and Steven Spielberg's Dreamworks, to sign up to the $150 million project, according to a report in *New Scientist*.

The key to the development is a encryption system that scrambles the film on the disc. It is then unscrambled by a special player developed by Divx. An internal clock runs when the disc is played and disables it after 24 hours. The consortium claims that the discs will cost about only £3.

Not all consumer and entertainment electronics companies support the project, including Warner Home Video. There is also concern that the encryption system is of such a high standard that the US Government will ban its export on security grounds.



If your home is plagued by rising damp, you'll be only too aware of its effects. There's always a dank, musty smell, unsightly stains and mildew in the form of black fungus. And because the fungus spores are inhaled, it can be a health hazard especially to the young and old.

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Eight-mile putt puts records to flight

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE American golfer Brad Faxon has entered the record books with a putt that travelled 8½ miles in 23 seconds. He sent the ball rolling 120ft down the passenger cabin of Concorde as it flew at 1,330 miles an hour on a flight taking the US Ryder Cup team from New York to Málaga.

The challenge was set up by Captain Jock Lowe, a member of the Concorde Golfing Society. "The idea is to putt as slowly as possible, giving Concorde time to fly as many miles as possible before the ball comes to rest at the back of the plane," he said. The ball rolled along the carpet, past bags of duty-free goods and seat legs in a perfect line. The longest recorded *putt anywhere is 140ft, by Bob Cook at St* Andrews in October 1976.

Faxon, 36, borrowed a hickory-shafted antique club to achieve his feat on the second attempt. He is renowned as one of the game's best putters, although at the last Ryder Cup he missed a six-footer to hand victory to his singles opponent.

Captain Lowe, an 18-handicapper, said yesterday: "It was a formidable achievement, and from the European perspective it does not augur too well for the defence of the Ryder Cup." Tony Jacklin, the former European team captain, was among the first to take the challenge. *While British Airways may have unwit*tingly given the Americans a psychological advantage for the Ryder Cup, the Europeans can always claim that the achievement was altitude-assisted.

Faxon's putt was not the only record broken on the flight. Concorde completed the journey to Málaga in 3 hours 25 minutes, the fastest passenger flight from New York to southern Spain.

Ryder Cup golf, pages 44, 48

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St Paul's finds modern creed is beyond belief

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CLERGY and worshippers at St Paul's Cathedral are puzzled why an unauthorised, "politically correct" version of the creed, the universal statement of Christian belief, has been inserted into services without their knowledge or consent.

Surprised churchgoers at 11am Holy Communion found themselves saying the new creed, in which the word "men" was omitted and the description of Christ's conception altered.

The Dean, Dr John Moses, admitted yesterday that an error had been made and said that the creed, last used on Sunday, would appear in services no more. "It appears that, on this occasion, we have made a small mistake," he said.

Canon Stephen Oliver, the precentor in charge of liturgy at St Paul's and a member of the General Synod's liturgical commission, decided to test the creed to discern any problems before it is debated again in the synod in November. Although the Dean was aware of his plans, St Paul's Chapter was not consulted. The issue was debated by the chapter yesterday, when the canons agreed that it had been a "valuable experiment".

Canon Oliver said: "We learnt valuable lessons from it. There are actually bigger issues around at the moment than this." Canon Michael Saward said: "We don't want to cause any trouble and we will go back to Rite A from the Alternative Service Book. The experiment was reckoned not to be the best thing for us to do. It was an entirely amicable debate."

One worshipper, who asked not to be named, said he was surprised that an unauthorised change was made to a particularly sensitive feature of the liturgy in a cathedral regarded as the flagship of the Church of England. "It is a politically correct creed," he said. "We were all most surprised to see it there."

The creed is a modified version of the Nicene Creed, issued by the Council of Constantinople in 381. The new version is being examined by the General Synod of the Church of England for inclusion in a service book that will succeed the much-derided 1980 Alternative Service Book at the millennium.

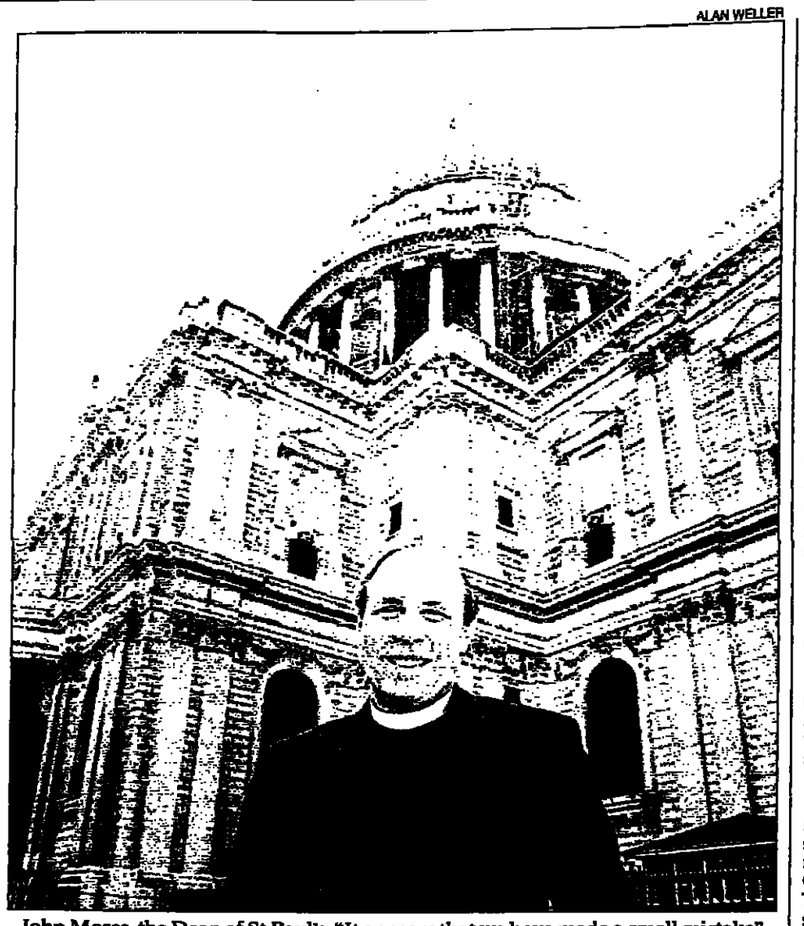
The word "men" is omitted from the line "for us men and for our salvation". Christ is said to become incarnate "of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary", instead of by the power of the Holy Spirit "of the Virgin Mary".

In the Church of England, any change to the liturgy must, under the law of the land, be thoroughly approved by church members through their elected General Synod before it can be used.

One of the catheral's clergy said: "It is more of a confusion than a punch-up. Some of us are concerned to know what is going on. One or two members of the congregation have raised questions about it with me. They came up after the service and asked whether there wasn't something funny about it."

AUTHORISED VERSION	UNAUTHORISED VERSION
We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty...	We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty...
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man...	For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man...
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.	We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
Nicene Creed from the 1980 Alternative Service Book Rite A	Nicene Creed used in St Paul's, taken from *Praying Together*, prepared by the English Language Liturgical Consultation, 1988

ALAN WELLER



John Moses, the Dean of St Paul's: "It appears that we have made a small mistake"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stowaway survivor to be deported

A stowaway who leapt from a porthole on a cargo vessel and survived for four hours in the sea before reaching Flat Holm, an island in the Bristol Channel, is to be sent back to the Dominican Republic, immigration officials have said.

The man, named only as Alexander, jumped into the Bristol Channel with his half-brother after being discovered by the ship's crew. The other man is not thought to have survived.

Flights dropped

British Airways is to drop its Glasgow to New York and Boston service after losing £7 million in three years. It blamed delays in linking with American Airlines, which would have provided thousands of transfer travellers.

Royal estate raid

Ramraiders stole clay pigeon shooting equipment worth nearly £7,000 from the Queen's Sandringham estate. They used a pick-up truck to smash through 6ft-high, padlocked, steel gates into a shooting school.

Refugee jailed

Haroon Matovu, 40, a Ugandan refugee living in London, drove into a cyclist and then mounted the kerb and killed a 62-year-old woman as he tried to flee. An Old Bailey judge jailed him for five years and recommended deportation.

River rescue

Marion Watson, 77, was rescued from a car she had just bought as it sank in the River Yare at Reedham, Norfolk. She had mistakenly pressed the accelerator of the automatic car after pulling into a riverside car park.

Charitable tale

Thomas the Missing Christmas Tree, a story featuring Thomas the Tank Engine written by the parents of Jack Fenwick, 2, who died of meningitis, is published today price £1 in aid of the National Meningitis Trust.

Neolithic find

A boy of 11 discovered a 5,500-year-old axe on the beach at Saltburn, near Redcar. The rare example of polished Lake District greenstone dates from neolithic times. James Fenwick found it while walking with his grandfather.

Late delivery

A message in a bottle sent six years ago by two Britons on holiday in Corfu has been found on the banks of the Elbe in Germany. Paul Jennings, 17, of Canterbury, and his sister, Claire, 19, threw the bottle from a pedalo.

Monks may return to their prior address

BY OUR RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A ROMAN Catholic order is being invited to return to one of its medieval priories for the first time since it was expelled by Henry VIII 460 years ago. After a 35-year restoration project, Gloucester council officials have said that the 13th-century Blackfriars priory in the heart of the city could now be reoccupied by Dominican monks.

Bob Duncan, the chairman of the leisure committee, said: "The plan is to move the Dominican archive and the seven monks tending it — who are currently in Edinburgh — to a purpose-built addition to the Blackfriars monastery complex.

"It will be marvellous to have monks in the city again. In medieval times, Gloucester had five monasteries, 12 churches and a population of only 3,000. We would like to explain this history to tourists and visitors by using the Blackfriars buildings."

The council has put in a bid for £8 million from Lottery funds to build a an exhibition centre and a new Dominican library at the site, which after the dissolution became a private house, then a glove factory and a bottling works.

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Flatekval: hacked in

Graduate ran phone fraud on Internet

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A COMPUTER studies graduate faces prison after he helped to set up a multimillion-pound Internet telephone fraud from his bedroom.

Omar Flatekval, 23, who has just been awarded his degree, "hacked" into the computers of the American Telegraph and Telephone Company, stole details of telephone charge cards held by customers and sold them on the Internet.

The scam is estimated to have cost subscribers with the international communications giant up to £10 million for calls they did not make over three years. It also cost AT&T $17 million (£10.8 million) to put the problem right. Police found 61,500 calling cards logged on Flatekval's computer system and estimate that he made up to £50,000. Users posted cash in padded envelopes.

On Monday the graduate of Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, admitted conspiracy to defraud when he appeared at Newcastle Crown Court. The hearing was adjourned to ascertain how important he was in the conspiracy.

Outside court, Flatekval, of Cramlington, Northumberland, said: "I regret what happened but I don't consider myself a criminal. I haven't hurt anyone and I haven't affected the British economy."

National maths targets too low, says Woodhead

Even primary schools doing well in league tables must try harder, reports John O'Leary

THE Government's expectations of children in mathematics may be too low, Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, said yesterday as he disclosed wide variations in standards.

A report launched by Mr Woodhead found too little attention being given to mental arithmetic and learning tables. In one school, only one seven-year-old per class could write down a two-digit number expressed in words, while in another almost all could.

The Office for Standards in Education said in its report that Britain's poor showing in international comparisons suggested that even schools scoring close to the national average must have low standards. Mr Woodhead said primary schools had to aim above the present national targets if sufficient improvement were to be made.

He urged the Government's new qualifications agency to keep the standard of national tests under review. "If we are not expecting enough in the tests, then clearly we are not stretching children enough and aren't going to make up the gap with our international competitors." England and Scotland were in the bottom third of the 42 countries taking part in the latest international survey of mathematics.

The results of this year's national tests in mathematics, English and science, to be published today, are expected to show modest improvement. But performance in primary schools will be far adrift of the Government's target for mathematics of 75 per cent reaching the expected level for an 11-year-old by 2002. Only 55 per cent did so last year.

Mr Woodhead said he believed the Government's target could be met with ease if schools adopted the teaching methods identified as successful in yesterday's report. These included whole-class teaching, "rather than the "debilitating" over-use of individual work which often required children to "plough through" a succe vssion of worksheets.

The prospect of more difficult tests was greeted with alarm by teachers' organisations. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "To keep changing the ground rules for national tests would only undermine the Government's standards drive and make it look foolish. We should stick to the 75 per cent target, which is challenging enough in itself, and then look again when we have met it."

Yesterday's report focused on the teaching of seven and 11-year-olds in Knowsley, and Greenwich and Newham in London. More than 160 lessons were observed by the local education authorities' own inspectors and those from Ofsted, and children were set specially commissioned tests.

The report said the results indicated progress since 1995, when nearly two-thirds of the schools surveyed were below the national average. All three authorities were in the bottom 20 for mathematics in last year's primary league tables.

The inspectors acknowledged that fluency in English might be a factor in pupils' poor mathematics because it could hamper understanding of questions, but Mr Woodhead said schools could not use pupils' backgrounds as an excuse for failure.

Only one lesson in ten was judged demanding for a seven-year-old, with a third of lessons limiting the range of numbers used to 20. Some schools did not expect pupils to learn tables because arithmetic could be checked by calculator, but teaching in the use of calculators was poor.

Where expectations were too low, that often reflected the limits of teachers' own knowledge, the report said.

Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, described the existing targets as "challenging" and said that changes to teacher training should help to meet them.

Abandoned literacy scheme endorsed

BY OUR EDUCATION EDITOR

A REMEDIAL reading system introduced by the Conservatives but abandoned within three years was praised by government advisers yesterday as highly effective for children who had not begun to read by the age of six.

The Reading Recovery scheme was imported from New Zealand in 1992. But government funding was ended in 1995, leaving 32 local authorities to find the money for individual teaching for six-year-olds who struggle to read and write.

Critics claimed that the scheme was too expensive and that greater use of phonics (teaching reading by sounding out letters) was equally effective. However, an evaluation by academics at London University's Institute of Education suggested that Reading Recovery cost no more than other provision for slow readers and was particularly beneficial for the lowest achievers.

The scheme involves half-hour individual teaching over about 20 weeks. Trials showed that children from homes with few books who could not read at all by the age of six were in the average band for their class four years later.

Phonological training was found to be just as effective as Reading Recovery for children with less severe difficulties, but had no significant effect on literacy for the bottom group.



IAN WALDIE

Terry Marsh and his fiancée, Gill Scally, arriving at court yesterday for the verdict

Ex-boxer Terry Marsh cleared of grant fraud

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

TERRY MARSH, the former world boxing champion, was cleared yesterday of a fraud charge which has already cost him his chance of a political career. It was the second time in seven years he had walked free from a court, having been acquitted at the Old Bailey in 1990 of the attempted murder of Frank Warren, his former manager.

This time a jury at Southwark Crown Court in South London took only 15 minutes to clear him of falsifying a student grant application after a two-day trial.

Mr Marsh, 39, resigned in April as Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for his home town of Basildon, Essex, after he was charged. The prosecution related to his receiving more than £9,400 in maintenance grant and tuition fees in 1995 from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for a two-year Higher National Diploma course in computer studies at Guildhall University.

The prosecution accused him of deliberately failing to mention, when applying for the grant, that he already had a degree in politics and government at the same university, for which he was funded by Essex County Council. He was therefore not entitled to the grant.

The former IBF light-welterweight champion kissed his fiancée, Gill Scally, after the verdict, walked across to the jury of seven women and five men and invited them for a celebratory drink.

Outside the court Mr Marsh — a former firefighter who was dubbed "the Fighting Fireman" — said: "I am not relieved, because I have always been quietly confident." He added that he was disappointed with Tower Hamlets education department's investigation into the affair. "If they had contacted me, as opposed to contacting a newspaper, then a simple investigation could have been put, and then it would not have been necessary to go as far as it has."

Girls may be taught to check for breast cancer

BY PAUL WILKINSON

GIRLS as young as 13 could be getting lessons in how to examine themselves for breast cancer in the first scheme of its kind in the country.

Education and public health officials in west Yorkshire are considering a pilot scheme for schools in the Kirklees area as part of a wider policy of improving the population's well-being.

Education service officers at Kirklees council and representatives of local health trusts are to canvass the opinion of secondary school head teachers, and hope to have the trial in place by next summer.

Gavin Tonkin, the council's head of strategy and school support, said: "The council has a strong line on a healthy environment and population and this was seen as a possible contributor to that. It was a result of people talking about health initiatives and was an idea which emerged from discussions between the education service and local health trusts.

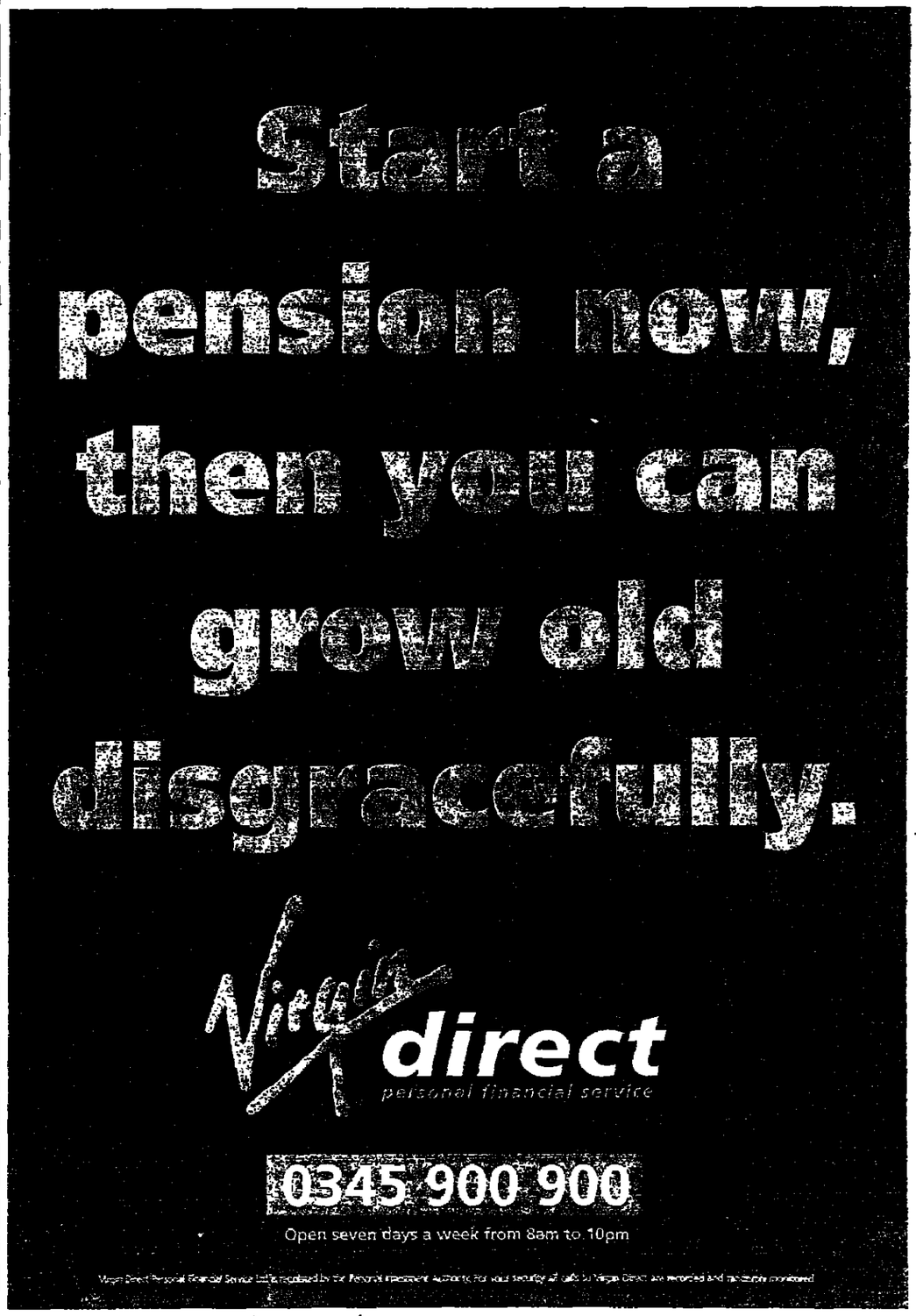
"It was deemed a sensible idea to take forward." He said the council was not aware of any similar schemes in Britain.

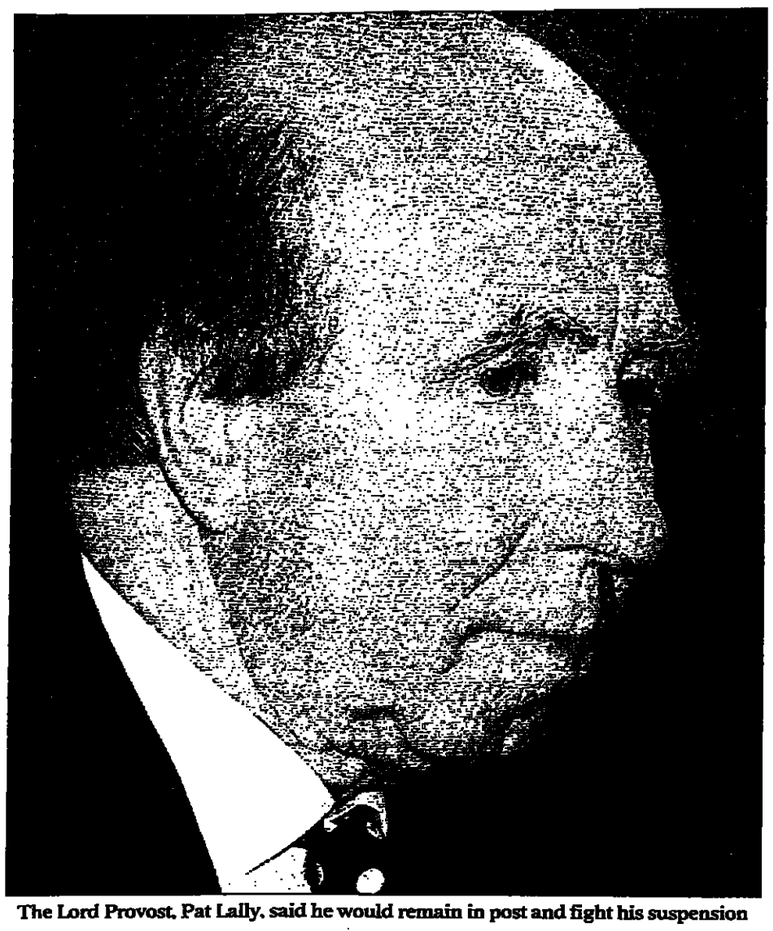
"The next stage is to talk to secondary heads to see if schools will take it on as a pilot scheme and see what the advantages and pitfalls are. It has to be handled very sensitively. We are not going to be forcing any schools to take part. Ideally, we need a couple of schools to act as volunteers and talk with parents and governors about it."

He envisaged that a health education official would give classroom advice on how pupils should examine themselves. Initially the scheme would involve older girls of 15 or 16 or sixth formers, but it would aim gradually to increase the number of girls receiving the tuition, including those of 13 or 14.

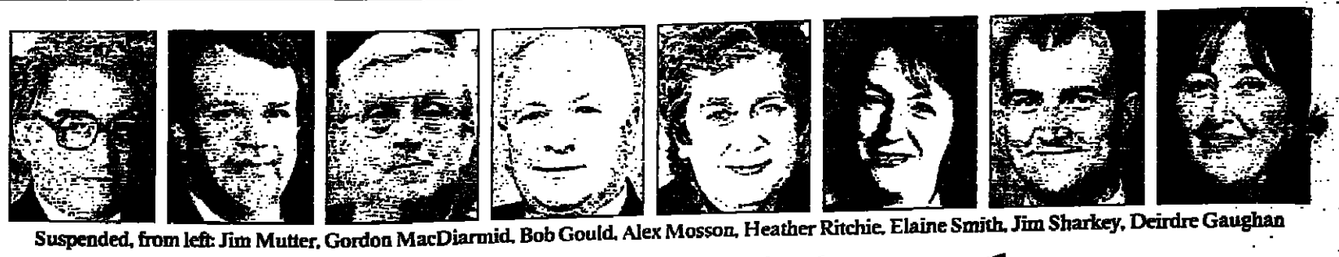
Mr Tonkin added: "There is a lot of discussion to take place but there is a lot of interest on all sides. It would be part of health education in schools. We already have extensive drugs awareness programmes."







The Lord Provost, Pat Lally, said he would remain in post and fight his suspension



Suspended, from left: Jim Mutter, Gordon MacDiarmid, Bob Gould, Alex Mosson, Heather Ritchie, Elaine Smith, Jim Sharkey, Deirdre Gaughan

Blair faces legal battle over Scottish 'sleaze' suspensions

Two Glasgow councillors in alleged trips-for-votes scandal will defy leadership, writes **Philip Webster**

TONY BLAIR was facing the prospect last night of a prolonged legal confrontation with some of Labour's leading Scottish councillors as party leaders acted after an investigation into sleaze claims.

Nine Glasgow councillors at the centre of an alleged "trips-for-votes" scandal were suspended by Labour's national executive in London pending the drawing-up of serious disciplinary charges. But many of the most prominent figures, including the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Pat Lally, said they would fight moves which one said had "put the verdict before the trial".

Alex Mosson, the Deputy Lord Provost, served a writ at the Court of Session in Edinburgh and intends to call the Defence Secretary, George Robertson, and the Secretary of the Labour Party in Scotland, Jack McConnell, to give evidence.

Mr Lally said he would remain in his position as the council's figurehead. "There is no reason why I should not continue as Lord Provost and I certainly intend to continue."

Mr Lally said he would use whatever machinery was open to him to fight his suspension. "I will also be further consulting with my solicitor in order to ensure that we obtain full disclosure of the allegations and the names of the persons making the allegations because clearly all of the information that was dealt with by the inquiry committee created the climate that led to today's suspensions. I do not think it's a terribly just way of dealing with things."

Mr Lally claimed that there were no "financial irregularities, improprieties or misuse of funds" in his office, which had been run in a similar fashion to that of his predecessors. After detailed charges have been drawn up by Labour's general secretary, Tom Sawyer, they will go before Labour's 11-member national constitutional committee. It will give those charged the opportunity to present their version and consider what disciplinary action is appropriate.

The allegations centre on the threatening of officials, failure to observe rules on the declaration of interests and the improper use of council funds for trips. Jean McFadden, a long-time rival of Mr Lally, has been appointed interim leader of Glasgow City Council.

After a meeting of the Labour group, among whom there was said to be "consternation", she said she was glad that the report had finally been published. "We have had seven months of uncertainty which has not been good for the city," she said. The remaining councillors had the stamina and morale to run the city.

Mr Sawyer said "tough action" had been taken. "We said at the outset that this would be a thorough, fair and far-reaching report which would leave no stone unturned."

Bob Gould, the Labour leader, who was also suspended, said: "I am deeply hurt by the findings against me, especially after 40 years of unblemished service in the Labour Party." Mr Mosson said: "I see this finishing when I get justice and an apology."

THE SUSPENDED COUNCILLORS

☐ **PAT LALLY:** Glasgow's Lord Provost. Councillor since 1966. Has been embroiled in controversy for most of his political life. Is Lord-Lieutenant, the Queen's representative in the city.

☐ **BOB GOULD:** leader of the council. Criticised for failing to discipline errant councillors. The "whistleblower" on alleged corruption.

☐ **HEATHER RITCHIE:** seen as an old-style Labour campaigner. Has denied allegations of involvement in an incident said to have taken place at a resource centre.

☐ **JIM MUTTER:** accused of making unnecessary trips abroad while the council's parks and recreation convener, and to have indulged in factionalism against Mr Gould.

☐ **JIM SHARKEY:** left-winger involved in slanging match during a public meeting, which led to police being called.

☐ **DEIRDRE GAUGHAN:** gave fellow councillors a faked Scottish Office paper that argued the case to retain schools, which she said she did not realise was a forgery. Escaped disciplinary action. Had owed £4,000 in rent on council house.

☐ **ELAINE SMITH:** regarded as conscientious and hard-working. The claims against her related to alleged verbal abuse of council officials.

☐ **ALEX MOSSON:** Deputy Lord Provost, alleged to have been on unnecessary council junkets with Mr Lally.

☐ **GORDON MacDIARMID:** deputy leader of the council, responsible for clamping down on foreign trips. Accused of having failed to provide strong leadership.

Salmond calls for PR in local polls

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH AND NICHOLAS WATT

ALEX SALMOND, the leader of the Scottish Nationalist Party, ended his political truce with Labour yesterday when he seized on allegations of sleaze in Glasgow to demand proportional representation in local government.

Speaking on the opening day of his party's annual conference, Mr Salmond declared that PR would end Labour's stranglehold on councils throughout Scotland. Mr Salmond pledged that he would "vigorously oppose" Labour in an attack less than two weeks after the SNP joined forces with Labour and the Liberal Democrats in the referendum for a Scottish parliament.

Mr Salmond told delegates at Rothesay in Argyll and Bute that it was inconceivable that Labour was unaware of the problems in Glasgow. He said: "Back in 1995, Labour said they were dealing with the aftermath of Monklands by requiring every councillor in Scotland to sign a code of conduct. Presumably every councillor in Glasgow signed that. Obviously, they could not have been too aware of what they were signing."

The SNP leader said that proportional representation could place political decisions in the public arena by creating "balanced politics".

Delegates will also debate the role of the Queen in an independent Scotland. Party activists from Springburn, Glasgow, are to call for a referendum to be held within the first term of parliament to decide if the Queen should remain as Head of State.

Michael Pinto-Duchinsky, page 20

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This rate increase does not apply to Mortgages Direct borrowers who will be notified by individual letter of the increase in their rate of interest and the date this increase becomes effective.

Under the Society's annual review scheme, borrowers will be advised of the new Monthly Mortgage Payment on the annual mortgage statement that is issued in January.

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Older men have better chance of founding dynasty

OLDER men who marry younger wives in the hope of producing a male heir have a good chance of success, according to a study of birth records. It shows that women who are significantly younger than their husbands have a greater chance of producing boys as their firstborn children. The opposite applies to women who are older than their husbands.

The discovery may help to explain why the proportion of male children tends to rise significantly in times of war. During both world wars there was a surge in male births. There was also an increase in the age difference between husbands and wives.

Men who have married much younger women and had a son as their firstborn child include Dudley Moore, 62, who has a two-year-old son, Nicholas, with his wife, Nicole, 32. Lord Bethell, 58, and his wife Bryony, 31, have a son, John. Bruce Forsyth, 69, and his wife, Wilnelia, 39, have a son, JJ, who is 11.

The study, by Dr John Manning and colleagues from the Population Biology Research Group at Liverpool University, is based on 301 families from the Liverpool area. The team reports in *Nature* that the age gap between the parents is significantly correlated with the sex of their first child.

In couples in which the husband was up to five years older than his wife, there were 117 firstborn sons and 84 daughters. When the age difference was between five and 15 years, there were 37 sons and 20 daughters.

Husbands with younger wives are more likely to sire boys as their firstborn, writes Nigel Hawkes

When the wife was the older partner, the opposite effect was observed. Wives who were between one and nine years older than their husbands had 14 sons and 29 daughters. For the period between 1911 and 1952, there was a clear link between older husbands and the tendency to produce firstborn sons.

Ages at marriage also show that, at the time of both wars, there was a sharp increase in the tendency of women to marry older men. "It may be that, during wartime, women prefer to marry older men with high resources", the team suggests. An alternative possibility is that younger men are more likely to be away fighting.



Boys first: Dudley Moore, left, and Bruce Forsyth

The team admits that it does not know how the sexual selection process works. Two possibilities are that women may unconsciously favour sperm bearing either the X or the Y chromosome, or that male babies in the womb may be favoured, equally unconsciously, leading to a greater miscarriage rate for female babies.

People in powerful positions tend to marry younger women, according to Dr Manning. "People have looked at American presidents and European royalty and business leaders, and they have tended to find they have a slight excess of sons," he said.

"If rank and resources pass down the male line, then it is in the evolutionary interests of such people to produce male heirs. Poorer people, on the other hand, have no rank or wealth to pass down, and men from these classes tend to marry women their own age or older.

"Their best interest may be served by producing daughters who can marry upwards and raise the family's status."

Alarm rings for fish scientists

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SOME fish can detect very high-frequency sounds, scientists have found, in a discovery which casts doubt on the effectiveness of measures to stop dolphins from being caught in nets.

The fish may have the ability so that they can detect the ultrasonic echo-locating "clicks" of predators such as dolphins and porpoises. Experts said the findings brought into question the use of acoustic alarm systems or "pingers" being developed to save dolphins and porpoises from being entangled in nets.

Preliminary reports, earlier in the year, indicated that the net-attached devices, which emit ultrasonic noises, can ward off marine mammals. But the discovery that prey of dolphins, such as herring, can also detect sounds up to 180kHz, may mean the "pingers" are worthless.

"It appears that the "pingers" simply scare the fish away, making it less likely that a hungry dolphin would go near the nets in the first place. The findings, from David Mann, Zhongmin Lu and Arthur Popper, of the University of Maryland's zoology department, are published in *Nature*.

Mark Simmonds, of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, said that the research showed the danger of putting faith in a simple technology to resolve "a complex fisheries problem".



VLLI MICHEL/REUTERS

An aircraft silhouetted against the Moon, which was made from debris from the Earth's crust and mantle

Moon grew in less than a year

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Moon was created in less than a year from a cloud of debris blasted from the Earth by a huge impact, according to Japanese and American astronomers.

They used computers to simulate the results of a variety of impacts by rogue "protoplanets" early in the Earth's history.

It has been accepted since 1984 that the likeliest origin of the Moon was the accretion of debris from the Earth. But the new simulations suggest two changes to the accepted theory. First, they show that the impacting object, hitherto believed to have been about the size of Mars, must have been at least three times larger to create the Moon. Second, they show that lunar formation would have been very rapid.

Sigeru Ida, of Tokyo Institute of Technology, and Robin Canup and Glen Stewart, of Colorado University, report in *Nature* that the Moon formed within 100 to 1,000 orbits. As the orbital period was about ten hours, that means within a month to a year.

Not all the lightweight material stirred up by the impact of the rogue planet went into the Moon. Most of it fell back to Earth, but the rest formed an object that must have loomed enormous in the sky. It was about 14,000 miles from the Earth, nearly 20 times closer than today.

Leading article, page 21



Jet pilots mistrust latest fly-by-wire aircraft

BY NICK NUTTALL

MANY airline pilots feel uncomfortable with the latest computer-controlled cockpits compared with traditional dials and controls found on older jets.

More than 60 per cent of those flying the most advanced planes, primarily those made by Airbus in Europe, said the technical manuals were "inadequate", compared with 23 per cent of those flying older jets.

The pilots of more advanced airliners also complained of a lack of sensory stimulation because they no longer needed to keep their hands on the controls. More than half said they were not given adequate technical updates. Pilots of the advanced aircraft were twice as likely to consider their training inadequate.

The findings, reported in *New Scientist*, come from a survey by Cockpit, an association of German pilots. Most of the complaints were about the Airbus A320, A330 and A340 — the "fly-by-wire" computer-controlled aircraft.

The survey was carried out before the Boeing 777, Airbus's competitor, came into service with German airlines. Ralf Beyer, of the German Government's Institute for Flight Guidance, said that pilots had responded more positively to the Boeing plane, which gave them more freedom to override computer systems.

John Mazor, of the Airline Pilots Association in Washington, said: "Airbus has a reputation for designing things with the attitude that the designers know better than the pilots." A spokesman for Airbus Industrie in Toulouse said pilots might initially mistrust the cockpits, but grew to trust the new technology.

Safety specialists have voiced concern over growing automation which gives pilots little to do during long flights. An American Airlines Boeing 757 crashed in Colombia in 1995 after the pilots, who were using autopilot, lost track of where they were. They programmed the jet to fly towards a position it had passed. It banked, trying to double back, and flew into a mountain.

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MEGASTORES beyond entertainment

Darling gives Lib Dems 'responsibility' warning

BY POLLY NEWTON
POLITICAL REPORTER



A CABINET minister told the Liberal Democrats last night that they must be responsible about public spending if they wanted to work with the Labour Government.

Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said the Government welcomed Paddy Ashdown's call yesterday for his party to be willing to compromise in achieving greater co-operation with Labour. "But if there is to be influence in power and influence in government, then that influence has to be exercised in a responsible manner, recognising the hard decisions that have to be made."

Mr Darling, who is thought to be the first Cabinet minister to speak at a rival party's annual conference, was addressing a fringe meeting held in Eastbourne by the Liberal Democrat Business Forum. His comments followed the attack on Mr Ashdown in *The Times* this week by Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio.

Mr Mandelson accused the Liberal Democrat leader of playing a "dangerous game" of personally supporting closer collaboration but publicly opposing Labour's decision to keep Tory spending plans. He said the Lib Dems would not win support simply by promising higher spending.

Last night Mr Darling told the Lib Dems that it was very much part of new Labour's approach to co-operate with other parties and with those who were not in politics. He said Labour had worked very successfully on the constitutional convention with the Liberal Democrats.

He predicted that such dialogue would continue for years to come between the two parties. "We will continue to work together where there is that common purpose. I very much agree with what Paddy Ashdown said this afternoon when he said that no party has a monopoly on political wisdom. We can learn and should learn from each other without losing our individual identities."

Mr Darling said if somebody had told him ten years ago that he would be in the Cabinet and sharing a platform with Liberal Democrats he would have been amazed. "It is something of a sign of the changed politics in this country . . . I'm sure that in years to come that exchange will continue. If we ever reach a situation where parties which have much in common as well as their differences cannot speak to each other, I think democracy would be the loser."

Addressing Lib Dem criticism that the Government was not investing enough in education, Mr Darling emphasised that hard choices had to be made. He defended the Government for its decision to implement the Dearing report by imposing tuition fees on students entering higher education. "We have got to face the fact that the present system was unsustainable."

He said that even the Liberal Democrats' policy of putting an extra penny on income tax to pay for investment in education would not be enough to solve the problem.

Sir Ian Wrigglesworth, chairman of the Liberal Democrat Business Forum, said he could think of no other occasion when a Cabinet minister had spoken at a rival party's conference. "There really could be no better example of the new politics of debate and discussion which Paddy Ashdown talked about earlier today." He described Mr Darling as being "like a lion in a den of Daniels".

Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, said: "I am sorry to see Alistair Darling responding so tetchily to the Liberal Democrats' constructive opposition. I think that it shows our criticisms of Labour's plans for the NHS and education are hitting home in Downing Street and indeed right across the country."


MARTIN BEDDALL

Thorpe given a warm welcome

THE former Liberal leader Jeremy Thorpe made his first appearance at a party conference for almost 20 years yesterday (Polly Newton writes). Mr Thorpe (above), who has Parkinson's disease, was warmly applauded as he took his seat. He struggled to his feet and clasped his hands above his head to acknowledge the cheers. Later he clapped several times during Paddy Ashdown's speech and joined the standing ovation at the end. A party spokesman said that only ill health had prevented Mr Thorpe from appearing on the conference platform alongside Mr Ashdown. Mr Thorpe, 68, stood down as Liberal leader in 1976 after nine years. In 1979 he was acquitted of conspiracy to murder and has made very few public appearances since. A spokesman for Mr Ashdown paid tribute to Mr Thorpe, describing his leadership as inspirational. "The party had a long, hard, climb back from the wilderness years in the 1940s and 1950s and the contribution of Jo Grimond, Jeremy Thorpe and David Steel to that climb-back, and to the position the party finds itself in now, has been immense."

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Ashdown is right and his activists know it

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The Liberal Democrats *do* have a distinctive identity *and* their long-term future lies in co-operating with Labour. That strategy, forcefully reaffirmed by Paddy Ashdown yesterday, has stood up to the buffetting it has received in Eastbourne — which has anyway been mild by comparison with the tremors which hit the old Alliance over nuclear defence policy when the Liberals last visited the town in 1986.

Of course, the emergence of the Blairite new Labour Party has challenged the Lib Dems. There are dangers in the party positioning itself self-consciously to the left of the Government. That will not win votes in the South West. Mr Ashdown rightly gave warning that a "defence of decent public services" should not be confused with a fossilised defence of yesterday's state sector, and quality of service to consumers should not be undermined by "the special pleading of producers". The Lib Dems have at times appeared to be revelling in being the party of public spending and taxes.

Nonetheless, the question posed by Mr Ashdown: "Imagine British politics without the Liberal Democrats", is pertinent. This is not just a question of its separate electoral support and ideology, and more a matter of diversity. The two main parties often play safe, avoiding awkward questions. While the Lib Dems can be self-righteous about their candour, they have helped to challenge the official orthodoxy. Public debate would be much narrower without them.

But, as Mr Ashdown argued, the Lib Dems should not be satisfied with their local strength or being a conventional opposition. The political system is changing and this offers the Lib Dems a big opportunity. This is primarily because of Tony Blair's boldness. He has opened the door to a more pluralist approach, by, for example, setting up the consultative Cabinet committee. No one, and probably not Mr Blair himself, knows where this will lead — whether he wants new Labour to take over the whole centre ground with the Lib Dems as a subsidiary or whether he really believes in a multi-party system.

But Mr Ashdown is right that the Lib Dems have to take risks and cannot have "an excessive concern" for their own purity. No one at Eastbourne has seriously questioned Mr Ashdown's underlying approach. The worries expressed by Lib Dem MPs and activists have been more an assertion of independence and resentment at being patronised by Big Brother Labour. There has been a desire not to rush ahead too fast.

The politics of co-operation now faces tests both of style and substance. The two parties have to find ways of talking which do not annoy the other. Just as the Lib Dems resent being told they are "on trial" and being told not to criticise any aspect of government policy, so Labour leaders understandably believe that partnership implies a degree of self-restraint. Accusations of "betrayal" are hardly the way to inspire trust. Such tensions could, though should not, derail the talks.

Far more serious is the question of electoral reform for the House of Commons. A commission will be set up in about a month to consider a proportional alternative to the first-the-past-the-post system to be put to voters in a referendum. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead is the favourite to be chairman, though he will want to be sure of Mr Blair's commitment. The commission will include independent members like the Nolan committee. The key time will be in a year when it reports and Mr Blair has to decide whether to come off the fence. That will determine whether the parties become closer, or move apart. But, at present, the momentum for change is much greater than looked likely immediately after the general election.

PETER RIDDELL

Leaders consider flexible PR line

BY JILL SHERMAN

THE Liberal Democrat leadership signalled yesterday that it would have to compromise over a proposed system of proportional representation for electing MPs.

The conference gave overwhelming backing to the purest form of PR, the single transferable vote (STV). The party will now recommend this to the commission on PR set up by Labour to choose a system to be put to the voters in a referendum. But leadership sources said that it was highly unlikely that STV would be acceptable to the commission and hinted that the Liberal Democrats might have to agree to a similar system to that being used for the Scottish parliament.

Under this method, the additional member system, more than half the seats are decided by first-past-the-post with the rest done on a party list basis. Senior Lib Dem MPs have argued that if the party has accepted it in Scotland and Wales, it would seem reasonable to accept it in Westminster.

Lib-Lab NHS group urged

BY POLLY NEWTON

SIMON HUGHES called yesterday for the establishment of a cross-party convention to work on ways of improving the National Health Service.

Raising the prospect of further co-operation with Labour, the Liberal Democrat health spokesman said: "There is one coalition that the British people want politicians to sign up to now. A coalition to secure the future of the NHS."

Health professionals and patients' representatives would sit on the committee, but political parties should be allowed to join only if they committed themselves to spending enough on the NHS.

He called on the Government to commit £350 million immediately to start cutting waiting lists, recruiting new staff and improving pay and conditions. Labour should remember the promises it made before the election, he said.

"If you win an election on specific pledges to reduce waiting lists, and waiting lists go up, and people start asking when they will come down, you need to do better than say you really don't know."

Mr Hughes said that the Liberal Democrats would also be campaigning for a new independent inspectorate of health and social care. "If the country needs an Office for Standards in Education, it equally needs and Office for Standards in Health."

Alexi Sugden from Hammersmith and Fulham, supporting a motion that called on the Government to avert an impending winter "crisis" in the NHS, said that Labour was condoning the rationing of medical treatment for financial reasons. "What happened to all those fine promises?"

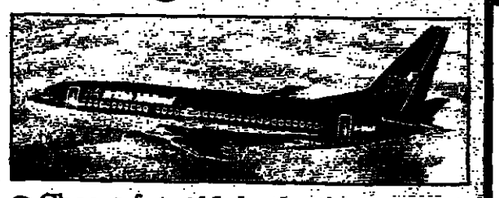
Richard Younger-Ross of Teignbridge said the Chancellor's first-aid box was nearly empty "except for the odd sticking plaster and bandage he gave us in his Budget".

The motion, which also called for less fluctuation in funding from year to year, was carried overwhelmingly.

☐ The conference backed a motion to oppose any attempt by the Government to introduce charges for contraceptive pills. Opening the debate, Justine McGuinness, chairman of the Women Liberal Democrats group, said the motion was "a pre-emptive strike". The move follows reports that ministers have considered bringing in an £8 prescription fee. Amanda Taylor of South Cambridgeshire said: "This amounts to a tax on sex and on sexual responsibility."

REWARDING TIMES

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Yeltsin says state must play big role in market

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin said yesterday that 1998 would be the year of recovery for Russia's economy, adding that it was time for the Government to tackle the unfairness of free-wheeling capitalism by playing a bigger role in the market economy.

But while the President was confident that communism was dead and a turning-point had been reached for the economy, he gave a warning to parliament's upper house that the recovery would be achieved only with the co-operation of both parliament and regional authorities.

In an unprecedented speech to the Federation Council, he said: "A return to the old ways is already impossible. A free economy is already established in Russia ... Even our opponents do not question the need for reforms."

Mr Yeltsin added: "The question is what kind of state and society this free economy will promote. Freedom alone is not enough. We need a new economic order. In itself, the market is not a panacea. We need to increase the role of the state in the economy."

The President said it was essential that parliament passed the 1998 federal budget and new tax code, calling both key conditions for economic recovery. The likelihood of this happening seems at this stage remote. Political leaders in the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, have stated their intention to block the budget and are highly critical of the Government's proposed tax legislation. In the next few weeks it is expected there will be protracted public wrangling and backstage dealing between the Government and the opposition in the Duma.

The President's decision to speak to the upper house separately — past addresses have been to joint parliamentary sessions — appeared aimed at securing support among Russia's provincial leaders represented there, before turning his attention to the Communist-dominated Duma.

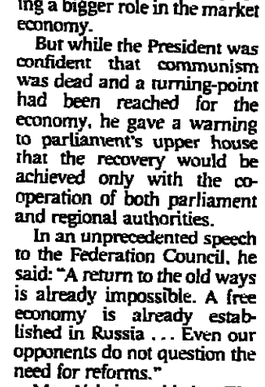
Mr Yeltsin also spoke of the need for greater financial discipline and moves to close loopholes for "behind-the-scenes redistribution of taxpayers' money". Federal accounts would be transferred away from banks into the Treasury to reduce the opportunities for embezzlement.

Efforts by the administration to stabilise the economy have already stimulated foreign investment in Russia. Anatoli Chubais, the First Deputy Prime Minister, told a delegation of prominent British businessmen last week that foreign investment had trebled to $6 billion (£3.6 billion) so far this year from $2 billion for all of 1996.

Earlier this week Al Gore, the American Vice-President, speaking in Moscow after talks with Mr Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, predicted a surge in foreign investment. He, too, emphasised the importance of tax reform and success in the fight against corruption and crime to help to bring this about.

Official figures show GDP rose for the sixth successive month last month to stand 0.7 per cent higher than a year ago. However, those living below the £44-a-month minimum subsistence level rose to 30.9 million, nearly 21 per cent of the population.

☐ **Religion law:** The Russian parliament's upper house passed unanimously yesterday a controversial draft law on religions. Although revised, the West still criticises the legislation as discriminatory. *(Reuters)*



Yeltsin after speaking in Moscow yesterday



REX FEATURES

One of the many artists who ply their trade on Montmartre hill in Paris

Bus ban threatens artists with blue period

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PAINTERS on the hill of Montmartre, once the artistic hub of Paris, claim they will be put out of business by a new municipal regulation banning tourist buses from the area.

After complaints that the narrow streets of Montmartre have become clogged by traffic, the city authorities ruled this week that buses must now park at the bottom of the hill. The artists argue that tourists will simply avoid the area rather than tackle the steep climb to the top.

Montmartre hill, the highest point in the city, can be reached by a funicular railway, but most tourists get there in coach parties. Once the haunt of such painters as Picasso, Matisse and Modigliani, Montmartre remains a magnet for struggling street artists, who make money by painting portraits or caricatures of some of the six million visitors every year to the hilltop cafés and restaurants.

Georges Behrakis, president of the Montmartre Artists' Collective, said: "Without coaches, old people simple won't be able to make it up the hill."

The Association of Montmartre Shopkeepers said in a statement yesterday: "This measure will [have] repercussions on employment, since many places will have to close down completely."

Jean Tiberi, the Paris Mayor, defended the move by saying that "Montmartre will recover it's tranquillity".

Italy gives single currency a test run in Florence

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY is so confident of qualifying for the European single currency next year that selected citizens will be given the chance to handle and use the euro from next month.

The six-month experimental scheme is being launched in the Florence area to test Italian reactions to the single currency. Euro coins and banknotes are to be issued by banks in two districts, and the Bank of Italy has underwritten the project, setting the legal exchange rate at 2,000 lire to the "Florentine euro".

The scheme has the backing of Alessandro Pesci, Mayor of the Fiesole district of Florence, and Mauro Perini, Mayor of Pontassieve, an eastern suburb. Both belong to the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS), the former Communist Party, which is the dominant partner in the ruling centre-left coalition of Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister.

The two areas have been chosen because they offer different social and economic laboratories for the experiment: Fiesole is a leafy district of well-to-do villas much favoured by art lovers and tourists looking for the ambience of E.M. Forster's *A Room with a View*, while Pontassieve is an industrial area bordering the Tuscan wine country.

"We want to see how shopkeepers and bus drivers as well as their customers react to making transactions in the euro", Signor Pesci said. Similar experiments in France and Germany have not been received with enthusiasm. But although the lira is seen as weak compared with the franc or the mark, Italy is desperate to join the single currency from the outset.

A decision on which states can join the single currency in the first wave is expected next year. According to the latest opinion poll, 78 per cent of Italians are in favour of joining.

Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Budget and Treasury Minister, told the World Bank and the IMF this week that although the Prodi Government was regarded as "bold, even reckless" for launching an austerity budget to help Italy meet the Maastricht criteria, its efforts had been rewarded by low inflation and a budget deficit increasingly close to the 3 per cent of GDP required by Maastricht.

Signor Pesci said people in Fiesole and Pontassieve would be able "to buy bread and salami, go to the cinema and take a bus ride" from October until March 1998 using the euro. The Florentine coins and notes resemble those approved by Brussels but bear local symbols and civic crests.

☐ **Bonn:** A draft law amending Germany's corporate law and financial regulations to allow introduction of the euro was approved by the Cabinet. The measure must now be put to parliament. *(AP)*



Prodi: party leading way on use of euro

Plea for Rwanda aid block

Nairobi: America and South Africa should reconsider aid to Rwanda's Tutsi-led army because it has been involved in the deaths of some 6,000 people since January, Amnesty International claimed yesterday.

Most of the victims were unarmed civilians who died at the hands of the Rwandan Patriotic Army or Hutu rebels, the London-based human rights watchdog said. Amnesty said it based the figure of 6,000 deaths on reports from survivors, witnesses and the families of victims, some of whom are in exile. The US gives military assistance to Rwanda. South Africa has been the country's main weapons supplier. *(AP)*

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Envoys start evacuation of smog-hit Malaysia capital

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITISH diplomatic families may be evacuated if the haze blanketing Malaysia and much of South-East Asia gets worse. The American and Canadian embassies in Kuala Lumpur yesterday announced partial evacuations.

The Foreign Office has already warned British visitors with heart and respiratory problems of the dangers posed by the thick smog caused by uncontrolled forest fires in Indonesia. An advisory notice urges anyone with breathing difficulties to stay indoors or limit their time outside. The same advice has been given to British diplomats.

The smog — covering an area almost the size of Western Europe — is now posing a serious threat to health and aviation. It has claimed its first two lives with the death of two people in Indonesia.

In Kuching, capital of the Malaysian state of Sarawak on Borneo, the air pollution index stood at 651, well above the hazard level of between 300 and 500. Officials said exposure to pollution at an index of 200-300 was equivalent to smoking 20 cigarettes.

Two Malaysian naval ships arrived in the Indonesian port of Dumai with 1,040 firefighters sent to help in putting out bush fires in south Sumatra. A state of emergency has been in force for six days on the island, with schools closed and government offices almost empty. Officials have tried to prevent panic by denying rumours of food shortages.

The smog has spread as far south as the Philippines. Fishermen south of Manila have been unable to put to sea because it is too dark.

The World Health Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme have given warnings that long-term exposure to the pollution could cause lung cancer.

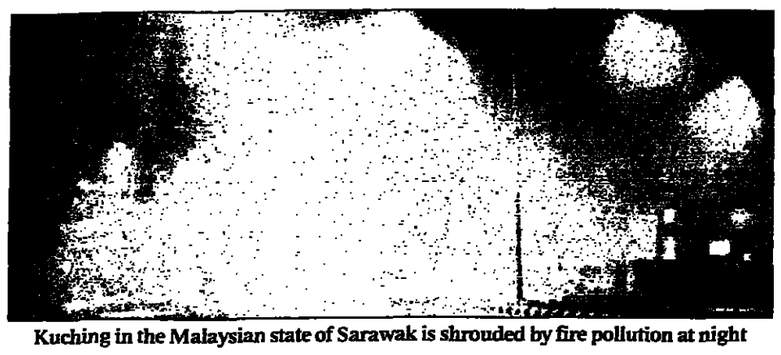
American diplomats were yesterday preparing to send their families out of Malaysia on a voluntary basis, and Canada announced that staff would have a week's leave in Australia on a rotating basis to give them a break from the pollution. "We don't know what the long-term effects of this are," an American diplomat said. "Nothing like this has ever happened before."

Officials said 15,000 Malaysians, mostly children and the elderly, had been treated for haze-related illnesses.

The crisis has provoked sharp criticism in Malaysia of the Government, which environmentalists say has not done enough. They have called for a ban on all cars and vehicles, a halt to the burning of rubbish and a week's closure of factories.

"To expect nature to take care of this problem is foolhardy, as we have been exploiting and destroying nature," said Chua Tian Chang, spokesman of the Campaign for a Clean Environment group.

The Malaysian Government has begun distributing surgical masks, but an environmental expert said a wet towel was probably more effective.



Kuching in the Malaysian state of Sarawak is shrouded by fire pollution at night

S. THINAKARAN/AP



A Malaysian child wearing sunglasses and surgical mask for protection against the worsening air pollution levels in the capital, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday

'Even the mild haze is like inhaling hot cotton wool'

BY ROSEMARY RIGHTER

THE haze over South-East Asia has almost nothing, except poor visibility, in common with the wintry fogs experienced in Britain. To experience it, even in the relatively mild form that has afflicted Singapore, is unbelievably unpleasant, akin to inhaling hot cotton wool fibres.

A naturally humid climate, where daytime temperatures hover in the mid-30s, adds to the enervating effect of living inside a wet blanket redolent of the refuse tip. Surgical face masks make no real difference. Eyes sting, with or without sunglasses — and sunglasses are hardly appropriate in the thick murk.

Even for the fit, the haze pollution index needs to reach no higher than the 100-range suffered by Singaporeans to make even walking exhausting, and to pose risks for the very young and those with respiratory problems or weak hearts. The haze is officially classed as hazardous at between 300 and 500, the top of the scale, and in parts of Malaysia and Indonesia the upper end of the scale has now been breached.

As the flight from London approached Singapore last week, the pilot announced that visibility was adequate for landing. The unexplained announcement seemed odd at the time, for mid-afternoon in the dry season. Stepping from the airport into the semi-darkness, my first reaction was to think that I must have set my watch wrongly; it was clearly much later than I had thought. But for the rest of the week, the sun was never to appear. Even in an air-conditioned hotel foyer, you could see the air drifting through doors that were left open for more than a moment. Nearby skyscrapers simply vanished, vehicles used lights and shipping had to be curtailed on the Strait of Malacca.

In Singapore criticism of neighbouring Asian countries is discouraged. But Indonesia's failure, year after year, to control the forest fires is breaking down the customary restraints. With Indonesia gripped by drought, these fires could not only be the worst ever but also the most durable. Foreigners can be evacuated, but South-East Asians are in for a suffocating season.

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TI 71

WORLD SUMMARY

Man who shot at Queen dies

Wellington: A New Zealander notorious as a schoolboy for a shooting incident involving the Queen in 1981 has electrocuted himself in a jail cell.

Christopher Lewis, 33, accused of murdering a housewife and kidnapping, electrocuted himself by placing wires from a television set on his temples. When 17, he fired a shot at the Queen in Dunedin and was jailed for three years for recklessly discharging a firearm. *(Reuters)*

Royal reversal

Canberra: Australia's republican movement has won the backing of Sir Zelman Cowen, the Queen's official representative in the country when he served as Governor-General from 1977-82. *(Reuters)*

Private war ends

Camp Pendleton: A Marine absent without leave since the Vietnam War admitted desertion and received a bad conduct discharge in California. Randall J. Caudill, 48, fled to Canada in 1968. *(AP)*

Hanoi's choice

Hanoi: Vietnam's National Assembly approved Tran Duc Luong, 60, a Communist Party technocrat, as President, a first step towards ending months of uncertainty about the leadership. *(Reuters)*

Bone breakers

The Hague: Workers created a 188-piece jigsaw puzzle when they dropped a *Hypacrosaurus* skeleton. It had taken two years to glue together the 75 million-year-old, duck-billed dinosaur's bones. *(AP)*



A woman weeps at the grave of her daughter, who was among the 200 victims of Tuesday's massacre

Rebels in Algeria urge ceasefire to expose 'extremists'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE leader of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) called for a ceasefire yesterday to expose and marginalise rival fundamentalists held responsible for a recent wave of terrorist massacres.

A statement from the head of the AIS, dated last Sunday and received in Paris yesterday, blamed the "abominable killings" on the ultra-militant Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which it said was determined to scupper peace moves.

The AIS is the armed wing of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which was poised to win elections in 1992 before the army intervened and cancelled the poll.

The call for all AIS guerillas to lay down their arms as of October 1 came the day after terrorists, believed to be operating on orders from the GIA leadership, murdered up to 200 civilians in an Algiers suburb.

The AIS called on others to join the ceasefire in order to "unmask the enemy hiding behind these abominable massacres" and so isolate "the criminal remnants of the perverse GIA extremists".

The military-backed Government has denied negotiating with the militants, but yesterday's communiqué confirmed that contacts "for the return of security and stability ... have been going on for a long time".

The AIS statement, signed by its "emir", Madani Mezerag, said: "This détente prompted the enemies of the past and future to fan the flames of discord and among the sons of Algeria and foil any plan that could buoy up the country and motivate the people."

The extensive coverage given to the proposed ceasefire by Algerian state radio and television yesterday was a clear indication of official backing.

The latest atrocities took place in Beniboumi-Bentalha on the outskirts of Algiers, once an FIS stronghold, indicating that the five-year battle to overthrow the Government is developing into a bloody feud between wings of the insurgency movement.

China attacks new US-Japan defence pact

Tokyo told not to interfere over 'issue of Taiwan'

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

CHINA reacted strongly yesterday to an expansion in American-Japanese military co-operation, announced in New York on Tuesday, giving a warning that interference over Taiwan would be "completely unacceptable".

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Beijing added: "Any act which includes directly or indirectly the Taiwan Strait in the framework of US-Japan defence co-operation is an interference in and violation against China's sovereignty." He added: "This would be completely unacceptable to the Chinese Government and the Chinese people."

Chinese officials are angry at what they see as an implied warning to Beijing not to touch Taiwan, and at Japan's engagement in American strategy to limit Chinese influence.

Elsewhere in the region, Taipei, the Taiwanese capital, applauded the expanded alliance as a positive step towards stability. South Korea gave a guardedly neutral response, urging Washington and Tokyo to consult closely with Seoul on the guidelines.

In Manila, President Ramos of the Philippines said: "If they have come to an agreement that would give Japan a greater opportunity to be engaged in the security and stability of our common region, I welcome this."

The deal gives Japan a broader, mainly logistic, military role in any American engagement in the region. It also includes controversial tasks such as reconnaissance, intelligence-gathering, minesweeping to keep international sea lanes open and enforcing naval blockades.

This expands the role of Japan's Self-Defence Forces, so far purely defensive except for non-combat United Nations peacekeeping operations. Until now, Tokyo has been obliged only to provide land for US bases.

The guidelines do not say so, but they were clearly drawn up with the Korean peninsula in mind and the potential for conflict in the Taiwan Strait. Japan and America have been at pains to state that no third country is targeted and that their policy towards China — especially over Taiwan — remains unchanged.

Diplomats had expected the Chinese response to be muted, partly because Beijing would not want to sour the mood before a visit to Washington next month by President Jiang Zemin. Japan's Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, moved to head off a diplomatic row, saying: "We have to alleviate their [China's] concerns through talks at various levels, not only at the top level." He announced plans to send officials, including defence staff, to Beijing to "explain" the guidelines.

In Japan, opposition parties bitterly denounced the arrangements, which do not need parliamentary approval and challenge the country's pacifist Constitution. The centre-right Minshuto (Democratic Party of Japan) called it "a mechanism to make Japan participate in a war automatically at the request of the United States". Japan's Communist Party said the scheme would involve the nation in any American war in Asia, even when Japan itself was not directly threatened, and violate the 1947 pacifist Constitution which bans Japan from using military force to settle any international dispute.

Crucially, the accord fudges the issue of how far afield Japanese troops can venture in support of American forces in a crisis. Instead the guidelines say "the concept — situations in areas surrounding Japan — is not geographic but situational". This ambiguity was intended to avoid provoking China, but analysts said no one doubts the real meaning — that Japan could be called upon to help America to protect Taiwan in the event of a Chinese attack. In fact, Japan's top government spokesman let the cat out of the bag last month by revealing that the arrangements would cover possible conflicts in the Taiwan Strait.



ERIKO SUGITA / REUTERS

Japanese Buddhist monks demonstrate outside the US Embassy in Tokyo against the accord, which challenges Japan's pacifist Constitution



Hashimoto: seeking to avoid diplomatic row

Admirer of 'kind Hitler' dies in Taiwan

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE death at 80 in Taiwan on Monday of Chiang Wei-kuo, adopted son of the late President Chiang Kai-shek, removes from the scene one of the last outspoken admirers of the man he called "Mr Hitler".

A bellicose man and a graduate of Whampoa, his father's elite military academy, Chiang was a tank general when the Kuomintang Government retreated to Taiwan in 1949. He liked to recall that as a young colonel he had almost defeated a larger Communist tank force during one of the last great mainland battles, at Xuzhou in 1948, but lost because his commander defected.

General Chiang played little part in serious politics in Taiwan and retired from the army in the 1980s. It was accepted in Taiwan that the general's brother, Chiang Jing-guo, who was President until his death in 1988, had been the son of one of Chiang Kai-shek's mistresses, and that in fact the famous Madame Chiang Kai-shek — who lives in America — had been biological mother to neither of her husband's famous sons.

In 1985, during an interview in Taipei, General Chiang spoke proudly of his training in the German Army in the mid-1930s. He remembered "Mr Hitler" fondly. "He was a very nice man, always very kind to me." Asked about the Holocaust, General Chiang said: "I never believe anything I have not seen, especially bad things I hear about people."



General Chiang: hailed Hitler as a nice man

Indian police stop widow from joining husband on funeral pyre

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

POLICE pulled a hysterical young woman from the flames of her husband's funeral pyre in Rajasthan this week, the first known case of attempted suttee (widow burning) in a decade. Among the men and women of the Rajput warrior caste, it would have been an honourable death.

The incident occurred in a village 25 miles from Jaipur, an area of conservative, private communities where suttee has probably been secretly performed a number of times in the past decade. Raj Kanwar, in her late twenties, had planned her death within hours of that of her husband, Shravan Singh, 32, after a long illness.

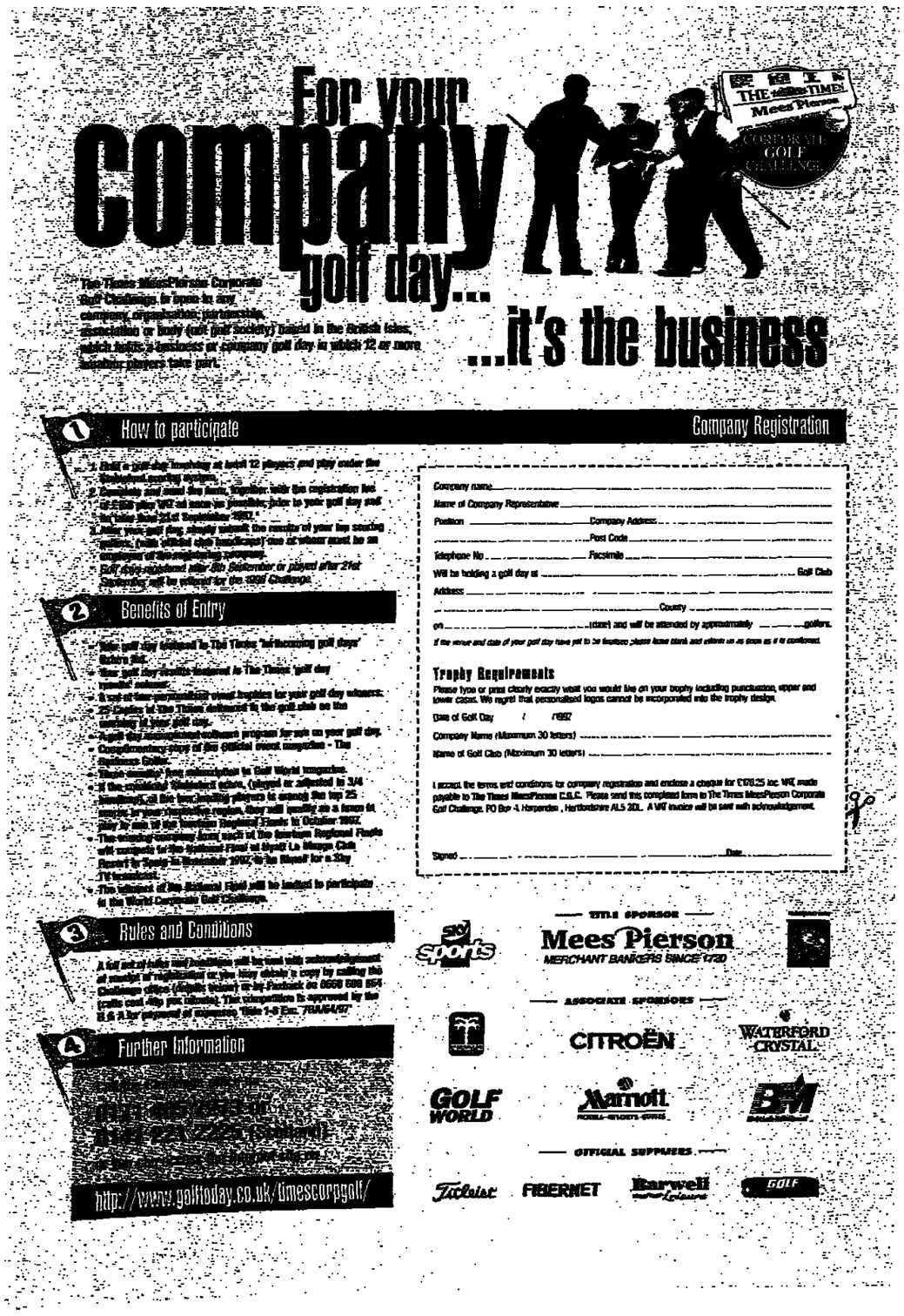
For three days she did not sleep, eat or take water. Among other high-caste women of her village she was performing the ultimate, ancient gesture of love. To the police, however, she was committing a crime. They heard of her plans shortly before the cremation and rushed to the site. She was dragged, screaming, into custody as fire engulfed her husband's body.

The last known case of suttee was in 1987, when sword-wielding Rajput youths surrounded a widow, Roop Kanwar, as she walked to her husband's cremation ground and jumped on his pyre in Deorala, Rajasthan. There were reports that she was goaded into her sacrifice by fellow Rajputs. Other reports said she was physically forced into the flames. Some accounts described her as smiling and serene, others said she was screaming and frothing at the mouth. Nobody was ever prosecuted.

Her father, Bal Singh Rathor, who did not attend, said a year later that she had decide to commit suttee despite attempts by relatives to dissuade her. A shrine was erected in her honour, and people offered prayers in front of her photograph. Police threatened to take it down, but it was left alone for fear of upsetting the politically powerful Rajputs.

Suttee was banned by the British more than 160 years ago but it continued in parts of the country, principally Rajasthan. There are stiff penalties for attempting or planning to commit suttee, but the police are unlikely to take action against Raj Kanwar, who has been sedated and is now in the care of relatives.

The Indian Government enacted legislation in 1987 banning any glorification of suttee and forbidding the erection of temples in honour of women who become suttees. Rajput leaders say there have been about two dozen cases of suttee in the past 50 years, none of which has come to public notice.





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ANC fears to grasp Mrs Mandela nettle

FROM R.W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

THE appearance of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela before South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission is hardly likely to be the last heard of the multiple killings carried out by her infamous "football club". Her wayward personality and the fact that the commission is more a theatre than a court guarantee that. But the fallout from this latest drama seems likely to be more immediate and far-reaching.

Mrs Mandela is an albatross round her party's neck and the resurfacing of the many scandals surrounding her is deeply unwelcome to the ANC shortly before a conference which will see President Mandela hand over party leadership to Thabo Mbeki.

The party's response has been to go into denial mode, but since it tends to do this quite instinctively in the face of any embarrassment its credibility is not high.

Mrs Mandela's candidacy for the ANC deputy presidency has raised the stakes enormously, particularly since the holder is certain to become South Africa's Deputy President. The preferred ANC way of choosing officials is to have one nomination for each post selected by a cabal. But now that Mrs Mandela's hat is in the ring, so are at least three others and the party faces a battle in which she is seen by many as the front runner. The prospect that she could run well, or even win, is enough to panic the party managers, not just because of the disastrous effect this would have on important sections of domestic and international opinion, but because her track record suggests that a lot more trouble would follow.

But Mrs Mandela's candidacy also reopens a number of other fissures within the ANC. She has broadly hinted that "moderate ANC leaders" were involved in the assassination of Chris Hani, the charismatic Communist Party leader. There is much nostalgia for Hani, and if Mr Mbeki blocks Mrs Mandela such accusations could be renewed. Similarly, the ANC has run into strong opposition from its partners in the Communist Party and trade unions over its free-market policies, especially since those partners are now demanding that South Africa renege on its foreign debts.

Mr Mbeki and the Government are not in a comfortable position as they defend the rights of foreign banks to be repaid and Mrs Mandela's left-wing populism will hardly make that task easier.

Moreover, the peace talks in KwaZulu-Natal are becalmed and there is a desperate need for the ANC and Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party to make a deal before the onset of the electoral hurly-burly sees the situation slip back into the violent competition which has already cost 14,000 lives. Mrs Mandela's presence in the ring will make such a deal harder: anyone who truckles with Chief Buthelezi is all too easily labelled a sell-out. Her lawyers have been playing for time, trying to put the commission hearing back as far as possible so that it is pushed hard up against the ANC conference in December.

If that were to happen, it will become impossible to separate the two events. One important point is that the hearing is going ahead as early as it is — and in camera to prevent Mrs Mandela from grandstanding too publicly. But there will be nothing to stop her from repeating in public whatever she says if she feels the need.

The chances of the ANC grasping the Winnie nettle look poor. Cyril Ramaphosa tried to do that and he has had to abandon political life entirely. Yet no one doubts that it would be far easier to deal with the problem once and for all while Mr Mandela, with his great moral authority, is at the helm. Once he is gone and she is the only bearer of the Mandela name in the political ring, it could become virtually impossible.

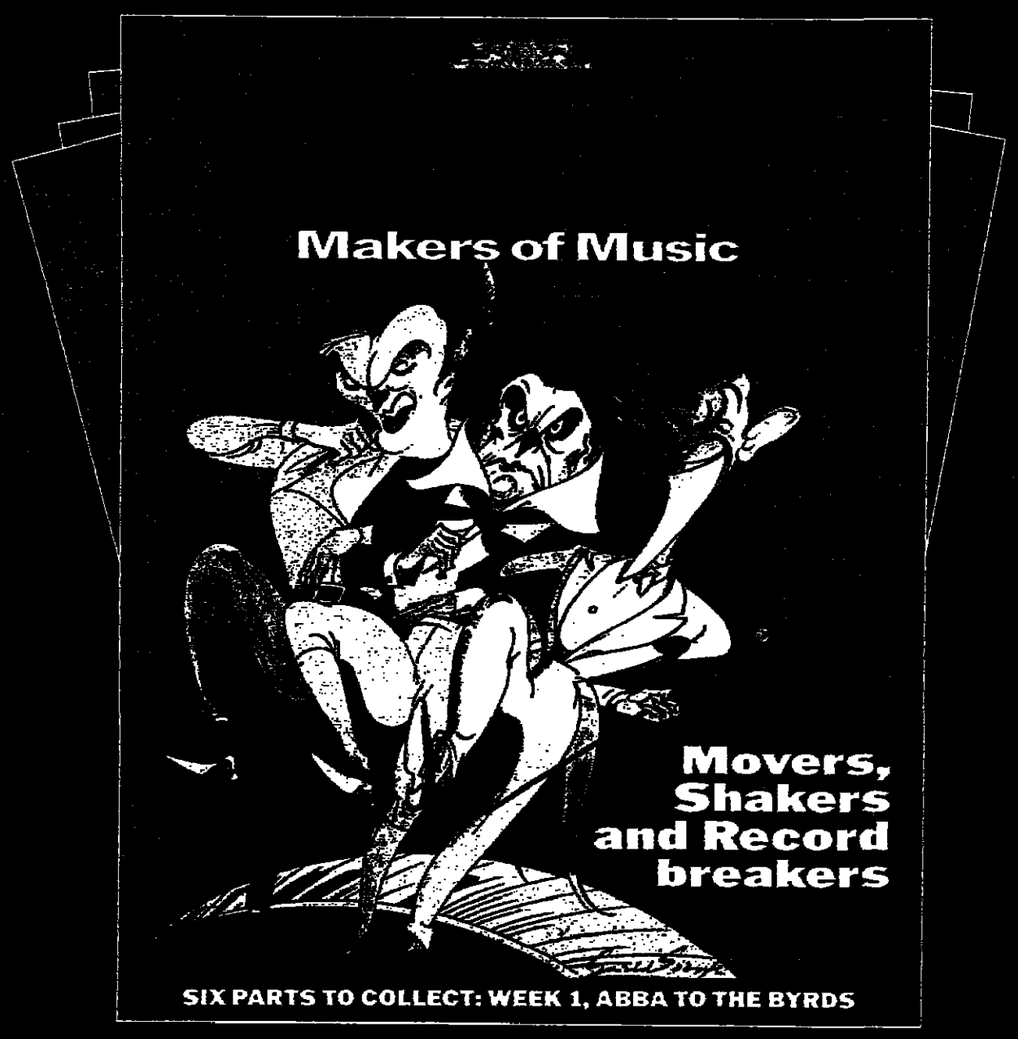
ANNA ZIEMINSKI / EPA



President Mandela speaking yesterday, National Heritage Day, at Robben Island where he was imprisoned. The background mural shows him and other black leaders in South Africa, Steve Biko and Robert Sobukwe

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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THE SUNDAY TIMES /S THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Woman blames beating-up on sexual jealousy

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

NEATLY folded and tucked into a part of a closet where it cannot contaminate the rest of her clothes, Phumizile Dlamini keeps a maternity dress stained with blood from injuries she says were caused by Winnie Mandela in a rage of sexual jealousy.

Three months pregnant by Mrs Mandela's driver, Shakes Tao, Mrs Dlamini says she was kidnapped by the South African President's former wife who, she alleges, smashed fists into her face and tore at her hair before handing her on to the notorious Mandela United Football Club. "See what you can do with her," Mrs Mandela allegedly told her teenage thugs.

Shaking with fear and sobbing, Mrs Dlamini recalled the night which she blames for the brain damage suffered by her son while he was in the womb eight years ago, with chilling clarity. Mrs Mandela is due to face accusations of 18 counts of gross human rights abuses, including eight murders, at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Friday. Her lawyers said this week that they would ask for a postponement to "complete interviews with witnesses". That is why Miss Dlamini was shaking in terror. Mrs Mandela's palatial house in Soweto's Orlando West still casts a shadow of fear across the tiny bungalows of the township she terrorised during the 1980s.

"Yesterday I was warned by a friend that anyone who is expected to testify against Winnie will be killed. I want to tell the commission what happened to me, but I am afraid. I need protection," Mrs Dlamini said. Mrs Mandelawas convicted of kidnapping and assault at a murder trial for Stompie Seipei in 1991 and sentenced to six years, which was later commuted to a fine.

Shocking new evidence in the Stompie case is expected to come out when one of Mrs Mandela's former henchmen, Katiza Cebekhulu, testifies to the commission. In sworn affidavits he has already said that he twice saw Mrs Mandela plunge a sharp object into the 14-year-old activist whose corpse was found dumped in waste ground. Jerry Richardson, the "football team's coach" was convicted of the 1987 murder, and is serving a life term. He has said in his application for amnesty to the commission that he was acting on Mrs Mandela's orders. Mrs Dlamini's story reveals frightening details about the woman who announced she would run for deputy president of the ANC. At 19, when she allegedly fell foul of Mrs Mandela, Mrs Dlamini had never been in trouble. Then she fell in love with Shakes, and became pregnant. Unfortunately, she says, she did not realise that Mrs Mandela's legendary sexual appetite had included Shakes.



"I was warned any one expected to testify against Winnie will be killed"

"She came to my house and asked if I was in love with Shakes. I said no. She said I was making a fool of her and started beating me.

"She left me, but came back later that day, in the evening. She was screaming, swearing at me, her eyes were huge and she seemed to be having a sort of fit. She forced me back into her car and that's when she started really beating me up," Mrs Dlamini said.

NEWS

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THE TIMES

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Clinton aide says US must extend stay in Bosnia

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton's National Security Adviser, setting the stage for a protracted political battle with Congress, has signalled that America must be ready to keep troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina well beyond the scheduled withdrawal of Nato forces in June.

Samuel Berger, in a clear effort to prepare America for the apparently inevitable continuation of an American military presence, said the West must remain engaged in Bosnia both to preserve peace in the Balkans and the credibility of the Nato alliance.

"Peace is beginning to take root," he said, "but the gains are not irreversible, and locking them in will require that the international community stay engaged in Bosnia in some fashion for a good while to come."

Mr Berger, in a speech at Georgetown University, made no explicit commitment that Americans would remain in the Balkans beyond the June deadline, but officials at the White House portrayed his words as a deliberate signal of intent to both opponents on Capitol Hill and anxious allies in Whitehall, Paris and Bonn.

The Foreign Office and officials from other allied governments have for some time been urging the White House to clarify its position over Bosnia. Britain and other European countries have long maintained that their troops will not remain in the Balkans without a continued American military presence. Last night Hubert Verdrine, the French Foreign Minister, said in New York that the Nato-led peacekeeping force should prepare for a longer stay to finish the job undertaken in the Dayton peace accords.

The Berger announcement came after much debate over the issue among the various government departments in Washington. Even the Pentagon has been forced to recognise that withdrawal before June would almost certainly lead to renewed conflict in the region.

The speech was also timed to blunt increasing criticism of the Administration's foreign policy by Republicans in Congress and notable outsiders, including Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State.

In an article widely published in American newspapers this week, Dr Kissinger offered a scathing assessment of Mr Clinton's Bosnia policy, suggesting that Washington risked drifting into a crisis because America's goals and strategy in the region were poorly defined.

While Dr Kissinger attacked the tenets of the Dayton accord and the creation of a multi-ethnic state, Republicans have hardened their stance towards troop deployment in Bosnia.

In 1995, Mr Clinton promised that the original US Implementation Force of 20,000 would be deployed to the region for a year. The week after his re-election last year, the President announced his widely anticipated decision to participate in the successor force which included about 8,000 American troops.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, a Texas Republican, predicted a vigorous fight in Congress to block any further commitment of American soldiers. "We are not looking at Somalia," she said, "we're looking at Vietnam. They don't have a clear exit strategy."

The Stabilisation Force (Sfor) mission has been complicated by numerous factors, including the continuing power of hardline Serbian nationalists in eastern Bosnia under the direction of Radovan Karadzic, the former political leader indicted for war crimes.

Only a small number of refugees have been allowed to return home, and there has been muted progress in merging Serb-controlled areas with those of the Muslim-Croat Federation.

Mr Berger said that life was improving, genuinely if slowly, for most in the federation. "I am making the case — I wouldn't say open-ended — for engagement in Bosnia at least in terms of civilian implementation for as long as it is succeeding in moving forward."

☐ **Belgrade:** President Plavsic of the Bosnian Serbs' Republika Srpska has settled a dispute with her rival, the hardliner Momcilo Krajisnik, and both have agreed to implement the Dayton peace agreement, Tanjug news agency reported. *(AFP)*

Irish rock band unites Bosnians

FROM TOM WALKER IN SARAJEVO

BONO, lead singer with the rock band U2, departed Sarajevo cloaked in the mantle of peacemaker yesterday, after a concert that crossed Bosnia's ethnic divide and left diplomats singing his praises.

Before climbing into a private jet bound for Greece and the next leg of the band's tour, the Irishman said he hoped the Sarajevo concert, which brought 50,000 fans from all over the former Yugoslavia, was a "small step" on the road to uniting Bosnia.

"There were 1,000 people from Republika Srpska there and they didn't have Kalashnikovs but U2 tickets in their hands," said the singer, wearing wrap-around pink-tinted sunglasses and a leather baseball cap. "It was an extraordinary night."

After hugging locals, Bono was whisked away. He was followed shortly afterwards by his guitarist, The Edge, who described the band's meeting with President Izetbegovic as "fantastic. He was a real gentleman".

Duncan Bullivant, spokesman for the Office of the High Representative, said U2 had shown that the boundary separating Muslims and Croats from Republika Srpska was there to be breached. "It was a good example that there is hope for this country," he said.

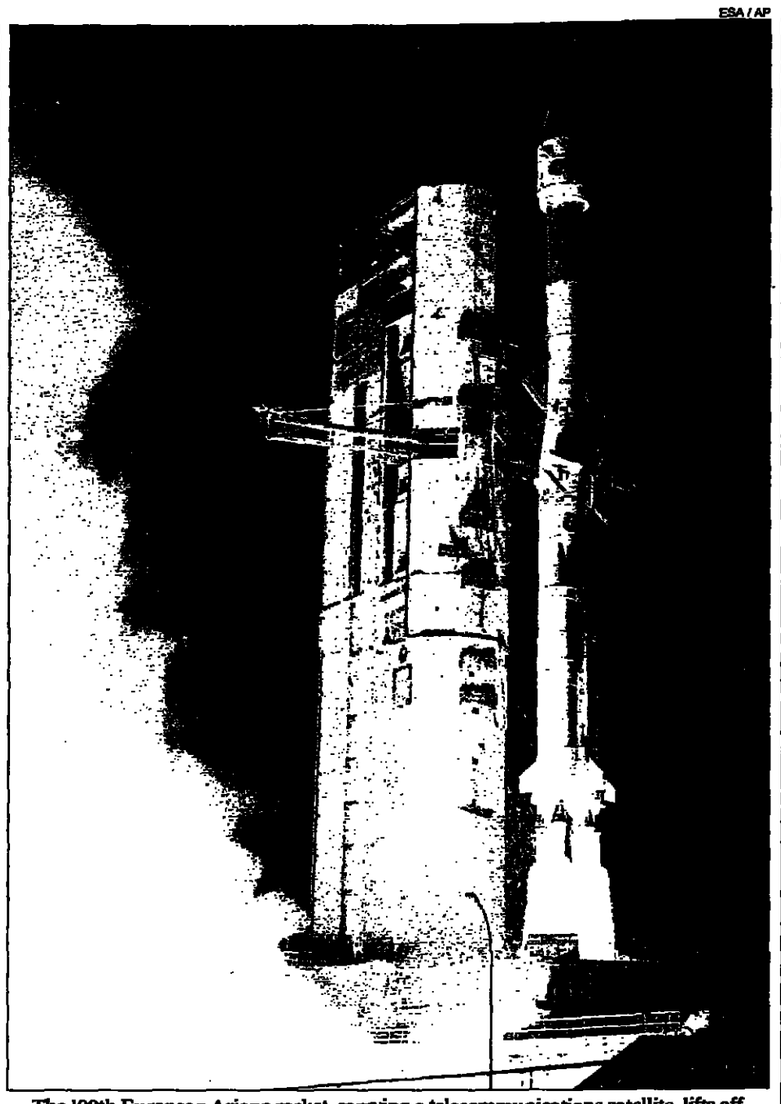
Alex Ivanko, the United Nations spokesman, said U2 had exposed the "absolute baloney" of the nationalist rhetoric dividing Bosnia. "People can have a good time no matter what nationality they are."

However, U2 fans in Pale, which is just 20 minutes up the road from Sarajevo and is the stronghold of Radovan Karadzic, the hardline Bosnian Serb leader, were prevented from buying tickets by their leadership, who told them the journey was unsafe.



Berger: feels peace is beginning to take root

ESA / AP



The 100th European Ariane rocket, carrying a telecommunications satellite, lifts off from French Guiana on Tuesday night almost 18 years after the first Ariane launch

Elton John tribute breaks US records

BY TOM RHODES

ELTON JOHN'S tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, has broken all records in the United States, where shops throughout the country said the song had sold out within hours of its release.

The Recording Industry Association of America yesterday certified that *Candle in the Wind 1997* had achieved "eight times platinum", a record eight-million initial shipment for a single.

When it was released in Britain last week, the song sold 650,000 copies in one day, to become the fastest-selling single of all time.

In America, its arrival appeared to bring something of a end to the extraordinary period of mourning that drew many to a princess they rarely followed in life.

At Tower Records in Washington, devotees grabbed multiple copies. "I've been here five years, and this is the first time I've seen so many people buying multiple copies of a record, especially a single," said Tommi Baker, an assistant manager. Most customers said they were buying it because the proceeds were being given to the Princess's charities.

The marketing of the Princess has gathered momentum. Mail order advertisements have appeared in almost all American papers, offering commemorative objects.

Photograph, page 24

Treasury scraps smudged $50 bills

Washington: The US Treasury has been forced to delay the debut of its state-of-the-art $50 bill after printing $7.8 billion (£4.8 billion) of such poor quality that the notes appeared counterfeit (Tom Rhodes writes).

Smudging of Ulysses Grant's portrait and of microprinted security details in his collar left the work below the standards demanded by the Federal Reserve for a first-run.

Reprinting the poor notes, which officials at the Federal Reserve admitted could be mistaken for fakes, may cost as much as $11 million.

The smudged bills made up more than 15 per cent of an order for nearly one billion $50 notes which were due to go into circulation between now and early 1998.

The problem was not detected until the Bureau of Engraving and Printing had dispatched large shipments of the money from Washington, and attempted to make the Reserve accept the defective currency regardless.

As a result circulation has been postponed until the middle of next month at the earliest.

"We have said we expect to get new notes to the Fed by the fall of this year and we will meet that deliverable date," said Larry Felix, a spokesman who conceded that the bureau had not encountered difficulties with smudging in the past.

"We've decided that notes of the absolute highest quality will be the first to go out."

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Depression, drugs and libido

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on controlling depression; why Thalidomide is still prescribed; cerebral tumours and changes in behaviour; genes for jeans day and the risk of breast cancer



Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlem's forthrightness has won many fans, but some ask whether her tumour affected her personality

Tumour that can create a different person

NORTHERN Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam's personality, always loved by her colleagues in the Labour Party, is now being appreciated by a larger nationwide audience. Those who have known her have always admired her outspoken North Country approach to problems, her flair and apparent indifference to the niceties of metropolitan drawing-room conversation.

When Ms Mowlam was diagnosed as suffering from a cerebral tumour there was inevitably discussion as to what extent her forthright approach had been a sign of what was presumably a slow-growing cerebral tumour and possibly a resultant raised intracranial pressure. Some journalists claim to have noticed an increasing intolerance of others' indolence or prejudice.

The signs and symptoms caused by cerebral tumours are either the result of the tumour pressing on the brain, or because the growth has increased intracranial pressure. Morning headaches, which tend to clear later in the day, and vomiting, are frequent early symptoms, as are seizures.

Psychological symptoms are more difficult to assess but are the first symptom in about one quarter of all cerebral tumours. These include changes in personality, increasing irritability, drowsiness or simple bloody-mindedness. In one recent case I was involved in, the man's tumour had produced a personality change; he is kinder, more romantic and, as one member of his family said, "nicer in every way."

Any evidence of a resurgence of the old Mowlam spirit will once again excite comment and raise questions as to what extent her medical condition and, perhaps more importantly, any treatment will influence her judgment and interpersonal skills.

Although some drugs or cerebral tumours may completely change a patient's character, in a great many other cases the doctor's prescription, or the disease, tend only to enhance existing personality traits.



Although only 35, William is so successful as a sales director that he already controls his company sales for a large slice of the world.

Colleagues and opposition alike would find it hard to reconcile the image he presents at company meetings with the story he told in the doctor's surgery.

Despite an outward show of optimism essential to the maintenance of the morale of his sales force, William told me that he'd always been a secret pessimist, just like his mother and many of her family. On questioning William, he admitted, rather reluctantly, to all the stock symptoms of depression.

Depression is not so much a specific disease as a syndrome, a collection of signs and symptoms that are, for convenience, lumped together and described as affective disorders. In the affective disorders there is an alteration of mood, the patient's approach to life may be either unreasonably lacklustre and despairing, or absurdly over-elated. Some people alternate between the two conditions.

Despite his efforts to conceal it, William had a level of despondency that was way beyond just feeling unhappy. He had gone off his food, lost nearly a stone in weight and had feelings of absolute hopelessness about all aspects of life both domestic and professional. William was sleeping badly, getting off to sleep and then waking up, and frequently after several hours of fitful dozing he would slumber again just when it was time to get up. William's mood varied according to the time of day, and life usually seemed to be a little bit more hopeful from lunchtime onwards.

William was irritable and this was enhanced by a conviction he had recently that his colleagues "had got it in for him". Although William had not been married for very long, his sex life had petered out once he had become depressed, from a lack of interest rather than ability.

William, like 70 per cent of depressed patients, soon responded to treatment with SSRI, selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor, also known as 5HT re-uptake inhibitors. His improvement started within a fortnight. After the first week of treatment his almost suicidal feelings of hopelessness had lessened and by the second week he was less irritable, paranoid, edgy and anxious. William continued his treatment for six months and the only side effect that worried him was that although he was enjoying all aspects of life again, he was still blind to the charms of his wife and other women. "It is not only that I feel an absolute fool in the bedroom, parties, too, have become a bore."

William had swapped the loss of libido caused by depression, for that which was the effect of treatment.

About a year after William stopped his treatment the symptoms of depression returned, as in 80 per cent of patients William's depression is recurrent. In about 15 per cent of patients their despondent mood is persistent without treatment. William's doctor's problem was to find a pill that would enable his patient to remain cheerful, but one which would allow him to enjoy a sex life.

In William's case Seroxat paroxetine was the treatment of choice. Most SSRIs will cause sexual disfunction in a fifth of patients, in both sexes there may be reduced libido, with men a loss of potency and with women in lubrication. If potency is preserved some men will experience pain on ejaculation and in both sexes orgasm may be delayed. For the 80 per cent of patients having treatment with SSRIs, their libido improves as their joie de vivre returns. Seroxat causes less loss of libido than other SSRIs. This week a new antidepressant, Zispin mirtazapine, has been introduced. Organon, the manufacturers, not only claim it is more successful and faster in the treatment of depression than the brand leader Prozac, but that it neither numbs the patient's sexual desires not alters the nature of any amatory response.

Zispin is different from the SSRIs and is classified as a NassA, a norandrenergic specific serotonergic antidepressant. Zispin increases the level of both noradrenalin and serotonin, the two transmitters involved in depression.

A review of the safety of Zispin by Professor Stuart Montgomery, of St Mary's Hospital, London, shows that a significantly lower percentage of patients complained of adverse effects in taking a new drug than they did when taking either a placebo, or one of the earlier antidepressants. A striking feature of these figures was the large number of patients who suffered side-effects when taking an inert placebo.

Many drugs, including those that affect the psyche, may also occasionally reduce the white cell count in the blood to a dangerously low level. Zispin is no exception but the available evidence suggests that in this respect it is no worse than comparable drugs, which are also used in psychiatry. In initial trials in the United Kingdom there was a significant decrease in one out of the 2,500 patients involved. In other parts of the world, predominantly the USA, 220,000 patients have now received Zispin. Only one has suffered from a seriously low white count, but he was also HIV positive and the true significance of the finding is unknown. One side-effect is the increase in appetite. In initial stages of treatment this can be an advantage, but once the patient is again cheerful they need to watch their diet.

Zispin is likely to be a drug about which we will hear far more. As depression is a syndrome, every case is individual and therefore needs to be carefully assessed. It is found that some patients respond to one drug better than to another and one of the factors which has to be taken into consideration, particularly in younger people, is its effect on their sex lives.

When Thalidomide can help, not harm

America did not suffer a Thalidomide disaster as badly as Britain and the rest of Europe. Even in mainland Europe, the Thalidomide used was unstable and did not universally produce deformities in the babies of mothers who took it in early pregnancy. This instability was detected by British scientists and Thalidomide's release to the public was held up, which was fortuitous as it enabled Doriden, a drug closely related to Thalidomide, to seize a greater part of the market for a mild hypnotic "suitable to treat the insomnia of pregnancy". Doriden did not cause foetal abnormalities.

British pharmacologists succeeded where their European colleagues had failed, and produced a stable form of Thalidomide. This had an unfortunate downside, for although, thanks to Doriden, fewer women in Britain took Thalidomide, those who did take it in early pregnancy all had abnormal babies.

The extreme anxiety voiced by the American public about the use of Thalidomide to treat other diseases is perhaps because, with less experience of the drug, they have an even greater horror of its side-effects than we do.

In this country, doctors have continued to prescribe Thalidomide for some forms of chronic leprosy, in particular the type 2 reaction *erythema nodosum leprosum*. Contrary to popular belief, leprosy is not very infectious and even those constantly exposed to the bacillus do not usually become infected. The type 2 chronic reactions may occur for up to ten years after apparently successful treatment and are characterised by red, oozing lumps on the skin. At this stage of the disease the patient may also notice joint pains, particularly in the knees; inflammation of the nerves; kidney disease and, in men, inflamed testes. Less well documented than its use in treating leprosy has been Thalidomide's value in countering

> 'It is still prescribed for some forms of chronic leprosy'

graft-versus-host disease. After transplantation, particularly of bone marrow in cancer therapy, Thalidomide has proved useful in reducing this chronic form of rejection.

Professor Ray Powles and his team at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Surrey have been researching the use of Thalidomide in cases of graft-versus-host disease for some years. They have found that Thalidomide is well tolerated by patients with a chronic form of the disease, and can be very effective. The Thalidomide was given with other immuno-suppressant drugs. The two well-known side-effects of Thalidomide, drowsiness and peripheral neuropathy — damage to the nerves and limbs — were not a serious problem.

As well as helping bone-marrow transplant patients, Thalidomide has also been used against other immunological disorders such as *lupus erythematosus*, and certain inflammatory conditions.

Professor Powles's work at the Royal Marsden has confirmed studies that showed that although Thalidomide is effective in many cases of chronic graft-versus-host disease, it is of no value in the acute form. British doctors are in no way casual about the use of Thalidomide. Great care is taken to see that it is not used wantonly and left lying about in bathroom cupboards where it might be taken unwittingly by a pregnant woman. The indications for the use of Thalidomide are very restricted, and it is only used when other drugs would be ineffective. Patients are always told what they are taking and what the implications are, and are warned to be careful about storage of the drug.

First reports on the use of Thalidomide in treating graft-versus-host disease appeared in *The Lancet* in 1988. Two years ago, in *Drug Safety*, there was a strong appeal for its use to be extended to other immunological disorders. So far there have been no reports of it being taken mistakenly by a pregnant woman.

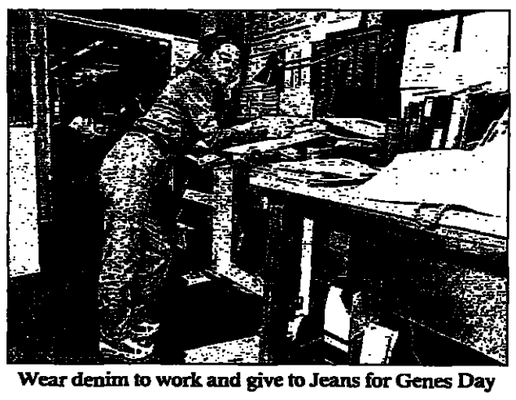
Jeans raise cash for genes

THE understanding of genetic medicine increases daily. People are worried, however, about a service which will enable someone to open their morning post, rise from the breakfast table and carry out tests to find out which genetic inheritable disease they are likely to suffer from. The Government has issued a code which determines the conditions under which a company may offer diagnostic service through the post.

The diagnosis of genetic disorders is only one factor in its control. It would be far better to find means to prevent the diseases, or, failing that, to cure them. The Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, which inevitably sees large numbers of children with genetic disorders, is launching a "Jeans for Genes" Day.

This is a national fund-raising appeal, on Friday, October 10, when the population of the UK has been asked to leave their skirts, dresses or trousers at home and instead wear a pair of jeans to work. They are also asked to give a pound towards research into genetic diseases at the hospital.

It will divide the money between general research at the hospital and the Primary Immunodeficiency Association, which investigates the problems of children born with little resistance to infection. Two other organisations to benefit from "Jeans for Genes Day" are the Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases and the Chronic Granulomatous Disorder Research Trust, which investigates the condition in which a child's body reacts abnormally to bacterial infection.



Wear denim to work and give to Jeans for Genes Day

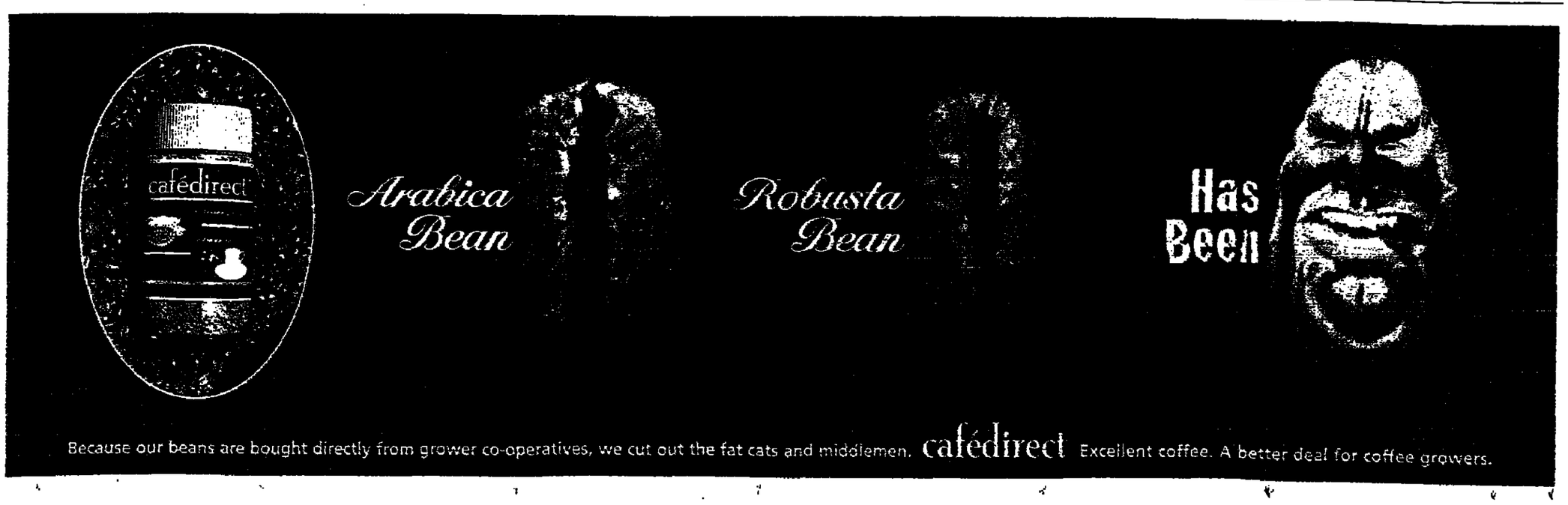
Pregnancy and the risk of breast cancer

THE death from breast cancer of the *Observer* writer Ruth Picardie, at 33, has caused great sadness in what used to be known as Fleet Street. It appears that before her cancer was diagnosed she had suffered from fibro-adenomas, known to doctors as benign mammary dysplasia and to the public as "lumpy bosoms".

In such cases — where someone diagnosed with benign mammary dysplasia then develops a cancer — it is always open to doubt whether the initial trouble was misdiagnosed, or whether it is another nearby lump that is malignant. Research has shown that problems with diagnosis account for most of the increased mortality from breast cancer in patients with lumpy breasts; but there is sound evidence that these women do have a small but significant increase in the incidence of breast cancer.

It seems Ms Picardie always worried whether the hormones used in IVF treatment could have accelerated the cancer. This is unlikely, but both pregnancy and breastfeeding may increase the levels of a hormone which could stimulate the tumour. It has however been suggested recently that the overall effect of pregnancy on breast cancer may not be great as was once thought.

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A single-minded drive to the limit

Richard Noble is the fastest man on earth; he is also masterminding the project to break his own land speed record. **Anjana Ahuja** reports


REUTER

Richard Noble with *Thrust* SSC in Nevada: "I never wanted to be one of those people who said they could have done something but didn't"

It is 11pm and everyone in the packed Black Rock Saloon Bar in Gerlach, a tiny town on the edge of the vast Black Rock desert in Nevada, has been feasting on roast pig and beer for three hours. It is time for the highlight of the evening.

A tall young man takes the stage, fiddling nervously with the microphone. A hush descends; cameras are poised. Fortified by several drinks, the young man delivers an inspired impression of Richard Noble OBE, still the fastest man on Earth. The serious, deep tones, the impatient, military manner, and the oddly timed smiles, are perfectly mimicked.

It is an audacious send-up, made even more so by the fact that the man himself is, unexpectedly, in the crowd, laughing sportingly at his imitator.

That night in the Black Rock Saloon was a rare moment of light relief in a deadly serious project — to break the sound barrier on land. Despite the lack of major corporate support (Castrol is an honorable exception), Noble, holder for the past 14 years of the world land speed record, of 633.5 mph, has managed to motivate a team of about 30 people to dedicate every spare minute of their lives to building a car that will carry one man through 750mph. The past month has been the culmination of Noble's dream — to finally usher that team out to the Black Rock desert, regarded as the best place in the world to run.


The Nobles with two of their children

In a canny publicity stunt, Noble also persuaded his longstanding American rival, Craig Breedlove, the first man through 400, 500 and 600mph, to venture on to the desert at the same time for what quickly became known as the "duel in the desert". Now, six years after the two men first met, Noble is nearly there — his car, the *Thrust SSC* (Super-Sonic Car) is on the verge of living up to its name, having clocked up an unofficial 719mph already.

Noble's single-minded determination has left his American rival — who has managed only 391mph in his vehicle, *Spirit of America* — unnerved and earned him unequivocal respect and admiration. And even though he is not at the wheel (*Thrust* is driven by Squadron Leader Andy Green, 35, an unmarried RAF fighter pilot), for many people it is Noble who will return to Britain a hero. His achievement is remarkable — on a shoestring budget, he has transported a team nearly 6,000 miles to spend six weeks in a remote frontier town, and persuaded many individuals to work up to 16 hours a day for little or no money.

For all this, Noble claims to be unmoved by seeing *Thrust* glide powerfully through the desert. "I don't talk about emotions," he said brusquely last week, after the car had reached 550mph in a quite thrilling display. "Emotions are dangerous."

Noble was born 51 years ago into what he calls a "boring military family". His father, an army colonel, was decorated but the young Noble, educated at Winchester, was never captivated by military life. "After the war it wasn't interesting enough," he says, his huge figure dominating the tiny bungalow he has rented in Gerlach. It serves as *Thrust* HQ, as well as being a temporary home for him, his wife Sally, 47, and their children, Miranda, 18, Genevieve, 16, and Jack, 8. Andrew, one of Noble's two brothers, wanders in and out.

Noble did not contemplate university, "preferring to get on with life", and became a salesman, first for Dulux paints and then Crimplene for ICI. In 1971 he abandoned his career to mount an overland expedition to Africa.

On his return to Britain, he switched to promoting management courses devised by the American Management Association. It was an exercise Noble pursued with passion, and he will still explain to anyone who will listen the merits of a flat pyramid of power versus a tall pyramid, "which has some chap at the top who doesn't know what's going on". (He adds that the military models itself on a tall pyramid and barracks me for describing his impressive operation as one of "military precision".)

From 1974 he decided to devote himself to his "obsession" with becoming the fastest man on Earth. It had preoccupied him since childhood; during a posting to Inverness, Noble spotted John Cobb's boat *Crusader* bobbing on Loch Ness and became fascinated by speed. He explains: "I never wanted to be one of those people who said they could have done something but didn't. I couldn't have looked my children in the eye."

Almost from nothing, Noble conjured up the money to construct *Thrust 2*, the car that, in 1983, was to carry off the land speed record that still stands.

During the time of *Thrust 2* and since, he has tried his hand at aircraft building, boat building, restaging famous motor races and after-dinner speaking. It is an crowded and impressive curriculum vitae. But he does not appear to relax for one moment. If anything, he seems restlessly angry, although at what or whom is unclear. Perhaps he is contemplating what will happen after *Thrust* achieves, or does not achieve, its objective of going supersonic (about 750mph). If it's going to happen, it must be before early October, when seasonal rains turn the desert into a swamp: "My horizons are 24 hours at the moment. Even if I did have plans I wouldn't tell you what they were," he booms.

One thing is certain, he holds a frightening contempt for potential sponsors who backed off as soon as they found out the car was to go faster than the speed of sound. He freely admits he would like to see people sacked for their decisions. "It's a harsh world," he says, without a flicker of sympathy for those decision-makers who may not have wanted their name associated with a fatality. "You have to understand, we are a very tough little project. People can live or die by the decisions we make." In the end, the Mach 1 club, a supporters' organisation, raised a quarter of the estimed five million dollar budget (many have flocked to Gerlach to prepare the track); more than 200 sponsors stumped up the rest.

He also holds a fearsome reputation among the media who have gathered in Gerlach. He is an intimidating man. But, for someone who has a guaranteed place in history, I find his defensiveness baffling. "The sponsors want us to open up 100 per cent to the press, but we don't owe anything to anyone." Is he happy that the press is here? "Yes, it's fine. We can show people what we are capable of."

When I ask whether the *Thrust* coffers have benefited from worldwide publicity — as well as news coverage, the BBC and Discovery Channel are filming documentaries — he instructs me that I have "the wrong attitude". He seems not to see a link between press coverage and sponsorship. Perhaps it is frustration at not driving the car. He needed, he says, to dedicate himself to fundraising and it made sense to hand over to a younger man. "It was not a very easy decision," he admits.

He makes no mention of his family. (Although the entire family is in Gerlach, only Jack trails his father with any genuine enthusiasm.) The *Thrust* team have seemingly plugged every safety loophole but everyone knows that perils may still lie in taking a car supersonic.

Two days after meeting Noble, I collar Sally in the Gerlach launderette, next to a scrapyard. She looks completely out of place in this desert town. "I'm glad for my children that Richard's not driving," she says. "I've spoken to people who have lost their fathers and they seem to have big hang-ups."

The *Thrust* project has absorbed "23 hours" of every day of the past six years, according to Sally: "I think about it all day and all night. I even dream about it. I wake up feeling tired.

"You never know what's round the corner. It could be stressful to some but it's normal to us. We have had some really hard times, like when we have to pay these guys and we don't know where the money's coming from. But something always turns up, or the overdraft gets bigger." She smiles and says she doesn't mind. "It's exciting."

● *The Fastest Car on Earth*, Discovery Channel, Sunday, 8pm

FAST FACTS

☐ The *Thrust* SSC is 54 feet long and weighs ten tonnes. Two Rolls-Royce Spey 202 engines provide 44,000lbs of thrust. It has a top speed of 850 mph. Its driver, Squadron Leader Andy Green, an RAF fighter pilot, describes it as a "landbound aeroplane".

☐ The original design was conceived in 1992 by Ron Ayers (a former chief aerodynamicist in missile design), Glynne Bowsher and Richard Noble. It was refined over the next three years using computer simulations and 13 supersonic rocket tests.

☐ At top speed, the car will endure 40G of force. If the nose cone lifts or falls by half a degree, the car will overturn. It is designed to stay absolutely horizontal, or "aerodynamically neutral".

☐ According to the rules set by the FIA, the car must complete two runs in opposite directions over a measured mile within one hour. The narrow time window ensures the two runs are conducted under near-identical conditions.

Shock in store for a mother

Motherhood and sprees don't mix, says **Rachel Morris**

Quite soon I shall be coming into unimaginable riches. I don't mean an inheritance or a £100,000 job in the City, but simply that our youngest child is about to go to school, and hence after many years of paying for childcare, I shall be — bereft, it's true, but — substantially richer.

These days, a good nanny can cost more than £10,000 a year, and even the humble childminder can clock in at half that sum. So whatever childcare arrangements you set up for your school-age child, it has to be an improvement on those expensive early years.

Having children has a curious effect on one's sense of time. It is as if the world stops on the year your first child is born. My dress sense, knowledge of fiction and world affairs, and taste in interior decoration all froze in 1988. Fads and fashions have passed me by. Even the fall of the Berlin Wall scarcely impinged upon me. I must be the last woman in England who still has a pair of leggings.

Handing your child over to the education system is a sad business. In every reception class of 30, there will be at least two mothers who, unable to face the loss, are about to get pregnant again. But the system is not without its compensations. You have the feeling that the clock is starting to tick again and that there are all those books to be read, films to be seen and television programmes to stay up for; not to mention, of course, the shopping that needs to be done. Five is a milestone for all the family.

In the days when we were childless, my husband and I were rather talented at shopping for luxuries. That was in the Eighties when an entire economic boom was fuelled by the nation buying things it did not need. I remember wanting coffee pots shaped like rockets: white vases with frilly edges designed by some Scandinavian architect (and a nightmare for flower arranging), coffee cups with Art Deco designs, a wood-burning stove; a cappuccino maker. And because, of course, there is a sexy aspect to shopping for luxuries. I remember the early years of our marriage in a haze of love and shopping.


Goodbye gratuitous consumption

And then the children came, and although they enriched our lives hugely, they also, at the most basic of levels, impoverished it. In the past nine years we've been to Tesco's and Sainsbury's more times than we can remember, and bought more nappies, loaves of bread and packets of pasta than we ever could have believed. At the same time, clothes have fallen apart and gone unreplaced, and even the remote control has clogged up with kiddies' pizza.

Yesterday I went down into town to see what had happened to the world of luxuries since I last sampled it: and, like Rip Van Winkle risen from a long, long sleep, I found that everything had changed. There wasn't a coffee pot shaped like a rocket, nor was there a frilly edged vase in sight. Instead, there were matt-black laptop computers, bleached wooden floors and chiffon scarves stippled and spotted with velvet.

But something else has changed as well. Extravagant shopping is a habit, and during the years of motherhood the habit had deserted me. I looked and was quite unmoved by all the consumer goodies that once would have entranced me. Worse still, a new method of exchange had entered my head: how many children's shoes can you buy for that fancy light fitting?

But then I came across something far more seductive to my temperament: a stationery shop in Covent Garden where you can buy blocky Scandinavian tables, pads of paper in bright primary colours, wooden pencils, pens made from Venetian glass, pots of gold-highlighted black ink — nothing hugely expensive, but every item a luxury, because, the truth is, a wonderful novel can be written with a Biro and a cheap pad from Tesco's. The fancifying of stationery has come on by leaps and bounds since the 1980s.

I browsed there for a while in a dreamy consumer trance, and then went home to stir my partner to the same excitement. But he in the meantime had been looking at my sums on the back of the envelope. "What's all this?" he asked. I explained. "No, no," he said, "You don't understand. We were always operating at a loss. Those hundreds of pounds saved are simply to stop us drifting back into debt." I stared at him. My jaw dropped. In my mind's eye, all those luxuries floated back out of the window.

And then a thought occurred to me — the kind to make a partner faint — if we're not going to be richer by stopping having babies, why not go round the loop again and have another one?

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Britain's removal van democracy

Don't pack up first-past-the-post, says **Michael Pinto-Duschinsky**

To grasp the power of symbols, ceremonies, and pageants is to appreciate the essence of political life. This month's carpets of flowers for Diana, Princess of Wales, created a new and potent image of "people power". Yet the most important symbol of the sovereignty of the electors is the modest removal van.

It was on the morning of May 2, 1997, only hours after the polls had closed, that the removal vans arrived at 10 Downing Street to ferry away John and Norma Major's belongings. As his possessions were being taken out by a back door, the outgoing Prime Minister left by the front door to tender his resignation to the Queen. He announced that he would proceed as a private citizen from Buckingham Palace to watch a game of cricket at the Kennington Oval. He would also step down as Tory leader. An hour later, Labour supporters gathered in Downing Street to celebrate the Blairs' arrival.

The spectacle of the expulsion of the Majors followed a time-honoured pattern. Lord Callaghan suffered the same fate, as did Wilson, Douglas-Home, and even Churchill on the morrow of the Second World War. So little prepared for defeat was Harold Wilson, that he had nowhere else to live and was obliged to camp out for several months in the home of Dick Crossman in Vincent Square.

Electing new governments matters less than ousting the old ones

Britain's "removal van democracy" has unusual virtues. First, it recognises that the election of MPs is a subsidiary function of national elections. The voters' central role is to re-elect or to dismiss governments and Prime Ministers. Second, what is really important is not to select a new government but to be able to oust an existing one. The defining characteristic of ballot box power is the citizens' ability to "throw the rascals out". It is the prospect of punishment at the next general election that provides the incentive for Prime Ministers to heed the public mood.

Third, the electoral system should make it possible for the voters to rid themselves of an unpopular government in a manner that is rapid and direct. The less obvious the connection between voting and the fate of the government, the weaker the voters become and the poorer the operation of democracy.

There can be no doubt of new Labour's appeal now. But there may come a time when voters become as anxious to get rid of Tony Blair as they were last May to dismiss the Tories. If so, there may no longer be a role for the removal van.

If Britain abandons the first-past-the-post method of electing MPs to Westminster, then future general elections are likely to be followed by a period of negotiation between different potential coalitions. The wishes of the electors will matter less than the ability of the various party leaders to bargain about the distribution of Cabinet posts and other perks. Provided an outgoing Prime Minister is able to reach the necessary inter-party agreements, he will be almost immune from popular wrath. Under PR, the sitting premier would have been able to remain in office after every general election since the Second World War — if he had obtained Liberal support.

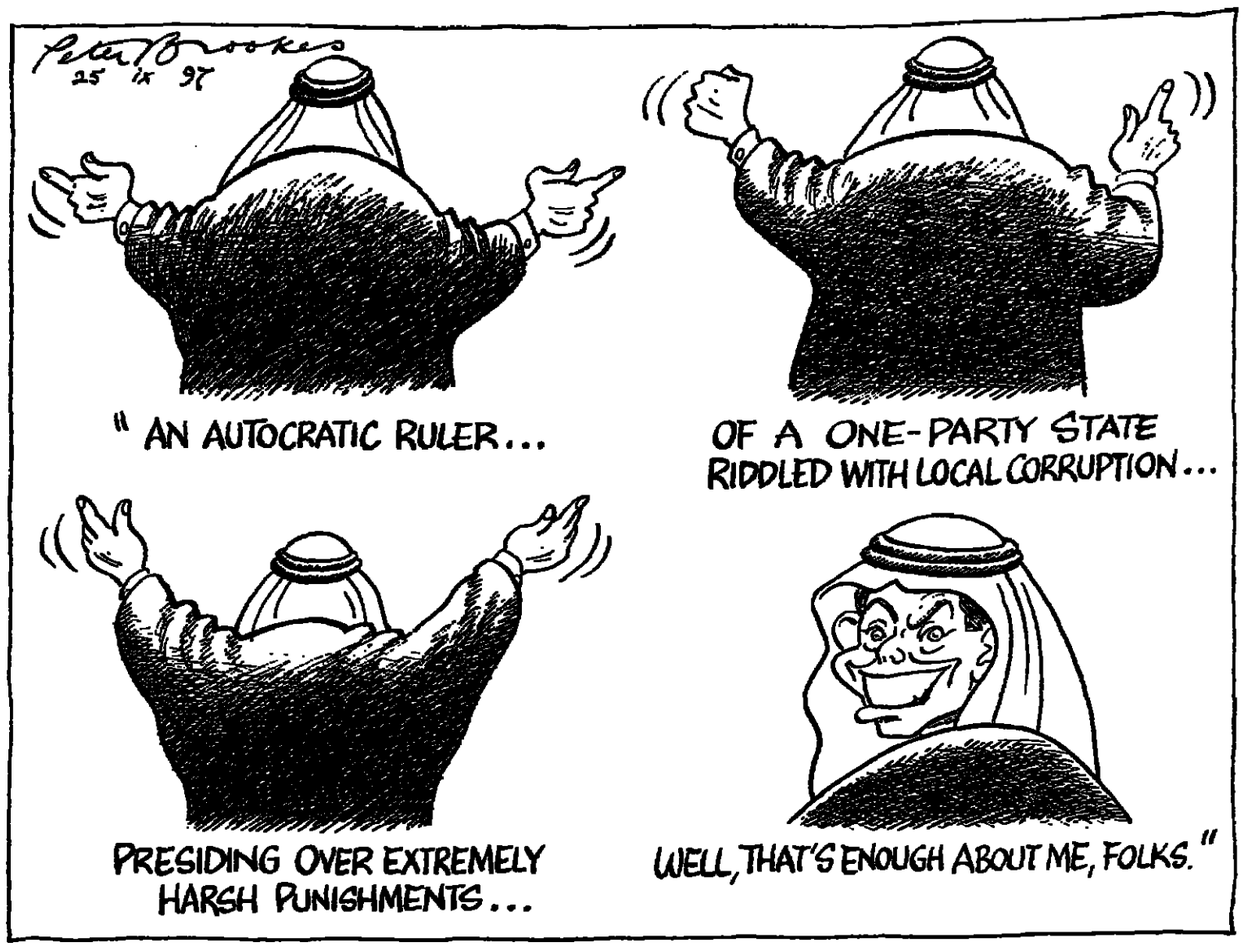
Mr Blair has a reputation for scepticism about proportional representation for elections to the House of Commons. But the main effect of last week's referendum in Scotland will be to create the momentum for a change of the entire electoral system.

The real news about the creation of a parliament in Edinburgh does not concern its powers, or even that the decision to set it up was taken by the first of a whole series of referendums. The vital change is the fact that it will be elected by proportional representation. Though 73 members will be elected in single-member constituencies, the overall results will be determined by the allocation of 56 additional members, elected on the German model from party lists. This method of allocating the additional members means that the entire parliament will be formed on the basis of PR. For a Welsh assembly the electoral system is the same, but with 40 members elected in single-member constituencies and 20 additional members. Furthermore, the Government has committed itself to introducing PR for the European elections to be held in June 1999. These developments are bound to create the precedent for PR for Westminster elections.

The introduction of PR for European, Scottish and Welsh elections will lead to fundamental changes for the political parties. PR will involve lists of candidates in an order of preference set by the party hierarchies. This will lead to the further centralisation of party organisations. The legal status of parties will need to be embedded in public law.

Labour held negotiations with the Liberal Democrats before the election, after which it pledged itself to set up a committee to consider alternatives to the first-past-the-post system. A referendum would then be held within the lifetime of the parliament to decide between the existing system and the chosen method of PR. The joint Lib-Lab Cabinet sub-committee, set up to steer a programme of constitutional reform, will ensure that the issue of PR will burgeon. At Eastbourne Liberal Democrat politicians are relishing the imminent prospect of PR, which would mean that instead of being permanently excluded from power, they might find themselves permanently in office.

Despite the manifest will of the British people for less power at the top, the reform process may have unintended side-effects. It will create more centralised, bureaucratic political parties. And it may take away the power of the people to oust the premier.



How to be a hollow man

With the new politics, it's better to have shone at Rada than the Oxford Union

William Rees-Mogg

Last weekend I was trying to reach my American newsletter co-editor James Davidson; I thought he was in Washington, but he turned out to be in New Zealand. Normally when this happens I get his answering machine, but this time the telephone was answered by his wife, Amy. It is one of the civilised aspects of Washington life that she has remained a White House correspondent in good standing, invited to the President's Christmas parties, despite the fact that her husband has been a leading critic of Whitewater and of the President's other Arkansas problems.

Amy Davidson is an excellent White House correspondent; in 1992 she told me, before anyone else did, that Bill Clinton was going to win the Democratic nomination and that he would probably go on to win the election. She had been travelling with the Clinton campaign, and had seen the way the crowds reached out towards the candidate. On Sunday, we were discussing the next American presidential race. She thinks that Bill Clinton has been so successful in the use of the new campaigning methods that no party could now afford to nominate anyone who did not possess similar skills.

That is bad news for Al Gore: he is not only in trouble because of Janet Reno's inquiry into campaign funds, but he has about as much "touchy-feely" campaign quality as a wooden cigar-store Indian. It is not much better news for the Republicans. People have been talking up George Bush Jr; he would start with $30 million-worth of name recognition inherited from his father, but he is no Bill Clinton. Some people think Senator Fred Thomson is the nearest thing the Republicans have to a warm, modern campaigner.

New political skills are needed for the new politics. Politicans used to have to be debaters and orators. Few debates now happen in the United States; they matter much less than they did even in the House of Commons. Michael Howard is one of the most forceful parliamentary debaters: that does him little good because he lacks charm on television. William Hague out-debated Tony Blair last July. Blair's one response to camera on the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was worth any number of Hague's debating victories.

The formal art of oratory is dying. The last great orator to become Prime Minister was Winston Churchill. Iain Macleod, Aneurin Bevan, Enoch Powell and Quentin Hogg were all genuine orators, but all four ended as political near-misses. In America, Ronald Reagan was a great communicator, and John F. Kennedy was a charismatic personality, but the last President to be a real orator was Franklin Roosevelt. There are too few great audiences nowadays; a great speech is too long, too cumbrous and often too aggressive to make good television.

The politics of image has largely replaced the politics of argument, both in the United States and in Britain. People do still judge their politicians ultimately by results; governments which fail can still be turned out. But unless the results are terrible, they judge largely by feeling, not by what they think of the politicians' policies. The impression a candidate creates depends on physical appearance, down to the choice of a man's tie or a woman's hairstyle, and on the use of trigger phrases, which need to have positive associations, as in consumer advertising. "New, modern, proud, happy, young, future, people, hope, love" are the right words for "new" politicians. In person they need to be warm, relaxed and sympathetic, like a good television presenter.

The new age has a post-cold war, post-Christian, post paternalist culture, more feminine, more intuitive and much less rigorous than the one which preceded it. The values are those described by Richard Barrett, who founded the World Bank's Spiritual Unfoldment Society (a title which in itself tells one a good deal about the new politics).

According to a recent article by Joycelin Dawes in *De Numine* — the Alister Hardy Society Newsletter — Barrett highlights "respect for all life, equality of all souls, importance of the common good, responsibility for the whole and unconditional love". These values are sometimes held uncritically: the new politics is genuine in its compassion, but it can suffer both from a dumbing down and a softening up of political discourse.

Bill Clinton owes two election victories to his ability to manipulate the slogans and images of the new politics. Whatever the issue, he manages to associate himself with the public mood. His rather goofy expression is adjusted, whether for sympathic grief, humility, relief, joy or whatever is required; his language is adjusted, he uses a few words, and those he does are in no way memorable. He expresses the sentiments one might find on a condolence card. He is not even a particularly good actor; he is a sentimentalist of genius, a Southern, honey-smoked, ham.

This technique has worked wonders for Bill Clinton; indeed it has worked so well that the American people do not mind that they perceive him as a phoney, as "slick Willy". They do not think he tells the truth, they certainly do not think he is an admirable human being, but he is a 100 per cent on key as a presenter President.

Tony Blair is another master of the modern mode. He, too, has perfect pitch, as one saw when he responded to the death of the Princess. But with him it seems genuine. The American people may suspect that Clinton has a hollow centre; the British people do not think that of Blair. They mostly see him as a very genuine person; they think that they would like him if they were to know him personally. That is probably right. I have met Tony Blair only occasionally, but I found him a likeable, open personality. For Blair as a politician this is another layer of strength, one that Bill Clinton lacks.

Both Clinton and Blair have relied on spin-doctors to manipulate public opinion for them. In television terms, the candidate is the presenter of the campaign; he is the public face, but the spin-doctor is at least the co-producer. Spin-doctors are not expected to be nice people. Just as Clinton is a less attractive personality than Blair, so his grey eminence, Dick Morris, is a less sympathetic person than Peter Mandelson. But the spin-doctor has, in any case, to be a shadow personality for the candidate. The candidate has to be open, warm and innocent. That is what the public likes. But a successful campaign has to have elements of secrecy, coldness and ruthlessness. As the candidate cannot be seen in that light, the spin-doctor has to take on his burden of guilt, which may eventually destroy him.

A successful modern politician obviously needs to be a good television performer. Indeed, he or she needs to be better than most television personalities. The sweet television performers, such as Michael Aspel, are too smooth and gentle and would appear weak in a political role. The tough interviewers, like Jeremy Paxman, can be too aggressive, particularly for women viewers; he is gender negative rather than cuddly. The new politician needs to cultivate a manner which is friendly but firm, like Trevor McDonald in Britain, or Larry King on CNN. But he needs to have a more youthful image than either of them. No politician can live without at least his own thick slice of ham, but relating to the new politics requires much more than performing skill. There has to be a real understanding of the new culture. The Princess of Wales possessed that, though she always emphasised that she was a humanitarian and not a political figure. The difficulty about the new culture is that it is half real, and rather admirable, and half bogus, and rather childish. One never knows, when exploring its literature, whether one will be reading about the transformation of consciousness, or about laylines at Glastonbury.

Poor William Hague has a long way to go. He will have to grin to camera like Bill Clinton, look as relaxed in shirt sleeves as Tony Blair, share spiritual unfoldment with the World Bank — something I do not believe Margaret Thatcher could have done — learn how to smile, meditate, laugh and cry to camera, and to sympathise with the touching mixture of love, anguish, sympathy and self-doubt which is the characteristic of his generation. He will have to become a "people person". He should really have spent his student life at Rada, rather than the Oxford Union; it would have had more practical value. New age; new politics; new Tories; new Hague.

Softly, softly in Saudi

Magnus Linklater says Cook should revert to reticence

Saving the two British nurses Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry from possible execution and public flogging should be the combined objective of both Saudi and British Governments. Whether they can achieve it may no longer be entirely in their hands. Both are under enormous pressure from public opinion, whether in Saudi Arabia or in Britain.

Such has been the outcry over the gruesome prospect of a Western woman being subjected to 500 lashes in front of a Saudi crowd that quiet diplomacy no longer seems an option. Yet that is the only way in which the two accused women can, in the longer run, be extradited without the Saudi Government losing face in the eyes of its own citizens, or Britain endangering its trading relations with one of the world's wealthiest nations.

In some ways, the yawning gap between British and Saudi concepts of justice has narrowed scarcely at all since 1980, when the TV screening of *Death of a Princess* caused led to a four-month break in diplomatic relations. It may even have widened. We are more than ever outraged by what seems to us a medieval approach to punishment and a trial system which, is the opposite of open justice; we cannot understand why a country apparently anxious to improve links with the West should resist change when it comes to basic human rights. The fact that the liberally-inclined Saudi Arabian Ambassador in London should have condemned critics in Britain as "bleeding-heart liberals" shows how resistant the Saudis are to Western influence.

It can no longer be claimed that the Saudis are ignorant of the outside world. Since the Gulf War, Saudi Arabia has had growing access to television and radio programmes from abroad, and there is a liberal strand of opinion in Saudi society which might not have existed a generation ago. But among most of its people, Islamic fundamentalism has been the greater influence. Opinion polls — were they to exist — would undoubtedly register Saudi approval of punishments which horrify the West.

Beheadings, public floggings and harsh prison conditions are considered appropriate sentences and the pillars of Islamic justice. Western pressure to reform them is seen as an attempt to subvert not just a penal but a religious code, and the Saudi Government is well aware of the strength of popular feeling on both.

There is some justification for the charge of double standards levelled against the West. Amnesty International, which has drawn up damning reports on crime and punishment in Saudi Arabia, has been just as harsh in criticising American states which still exercise the death penalty, and where condemned men linger for years on death row before facing execution. That same organisation has even criticised primitive conditions in some British prisons.

Newspapers which caricature the Saudi regime as punitive and autocratic have often commended countries such as Singapore for meting out stiff sentences — including flogging — to juvenile delinquents. They forget that fear of violent crime in Britain is such that, were a referendum to be carried out today, there might well be a resounding majority for restoring capital punishment.

That does not mean that we should turn a blind eye to what has happened to Miss McLauchlan and Miss Parry. Everything we have learnt about their case contradicts what we consider to be natural justice. We have seen no evidence, tested in court, that they are guilty or innocent. With no written code in Islamic religious law, an accused person can be held almost indefinitely in custody. There is no automatic right to an open hearing, no access to defence witnesses, and in some cases only prosecution witnesses can be heard. Everything stems from the suspect's confession, and in this case the two accused claim that their original confessions were induced under duress. We have been treated to the unedifying spectacle of their fate being determined by members of the dead woman's family.

All of this offends us. It is understandable that it should do so. If there is such thing as a universal standard of justice, then we, and not the Saudis, are on the right side of it. It would be a great mistake, however, if natural revulsion were to develop into a full-blooded campaign against a whole nation and its system of justice. That would simply alienate its people and tie the hands of its Government. What matters now is not issuing public condemnations, but preventing a horrible punishment being meted out against two women who may be innocent.

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, having issued his public denunciation, should revert to reticence. From now on the pressure should be maintained firmly but discreetly. It seems clear that the Saudi Government is anxious to avoid a confrontation with the United Kingdom, and it should be in our interests to achieve the same end. In so doing we will help protect rather than imperil the lives of two British citizens.

Taxing times

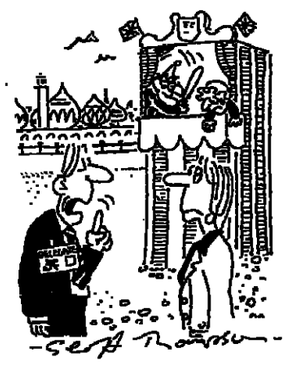
DAVID DIMBLEBY is in dispute with the Inland Revenue over tax paid by his company. The taxman is considering whether the television presenter's firm should pay thousands of pounds.

The argument is over the Dimbleby Newspaper Group's habit of paying staff as freelancers, leaving them responsible for their own tax. It flared up after a freelance journalist at one of the group's newspapers, the *Richmond and Twickenham Times*, challenged a personal tax demand. He claimed he was working full-time, in an office and with a desk, yet was being taxed as a freelance — meaning he had to account for this out of his wages of just £23.10 a day. The Revenue wrote back to say that it was investigating the tax status of Dimbleby's journalists.

The group, which has been passed down through the Dimbleby clan, covers eight local papers, published in South London. According to the NUJ, nine journalists are employed across the group on a salary of £5,775 a year.

If the Revenue investigators judge that staff work for "one effective employer", the company could be liable for years of back tax. Union toilers are growing very exercised.

The NUJ's Tim Gopsill says there is "poverty all around" Mr Dimbleby at his newspapers, and says the union has been lobbying to improve pay and working conditions. Sadly, the group's managing director, Harry Lorraine, thought it best not to comment.



"It's not aggression, it's constructive criticism"

DIARY

● *MIDDLEAGE has failed to diminish the adulation for the actress Faye Dunaway, who has developed a penchant for the London restaurant, the Bombay Brasserie. "She is the only Westerner who can eat lamb* mirhci, *our spiciest dish," marvels the manager. "We've had all the godfathers in here — Pacino, De Niro and Brando — but none have got it down."*

Moor Myra

THOSE wishing to appraise the child murderer, Myra Hindley, will be cheered by a recent revelation by her nonagenarian champion, Lord Longford: he wants to write her biography.

"Myra deserves to be portrayed fairly," suggests Longford. "Everyone remembers her how she was when she was arrested, but she's so different now — nothing like the Royal Academy portrait. But I won't approach any publishers until I have Myra's consent."

● *BEFORE her arrest, Anne Machon, girlfriend of the MI5 squealer David Shayler and herself a former agent, entertained herself on the flight into London with a book. Its title?* How to Gain American Citizenship.

Riff justice

IS the world of rock or of politics the poorer? Archie Kirkwood, Liberal MP, has disclosed how he almost became a pop star. His band, unwisely named *The Gaylords* and featuring Norman "buster blood vessel" Baker, recently elected Member for Lewes, on vocals, has been called upon to perform every night at this year's conference.

Half of *The Gaylords* went on to form *The Average White Band*, which later found success in America. "I had the chance of staying on with them," said Kirkwood, guitar virtuoso. "But chose to go to pharmacy college instead."

Fat chance

THE PROSPECT of jostling on stage with the fat comedian Jo Brand was simply too much for Julie Christie, an actress of notably svelte proportions.



Brand: large as life



Christie: out of touch

Both were due to appear at the Hackney Empire in London on Sunday night, in aid of Mind. The show, *Having a Funny Turn*, promised to "celebrate positive images of mental health" — Brand makes much of the fact that she was formerly a psychiatric nurse.

For Christie, however, there was little positive to celebrate about Brand's bulky frame. "She pulled out at the last minute," says a distraught charity dame. "It was awful — sales waned when people realised she wasn't appearing." Meanwhile, the actress is out of touch. "She's gone abroad," says a member of her circle. "I do not know where. It is personal."

● *JUST two days after his arrival in the capital already the new American Ambassador, Philip Lader, has shown that he is a man of cultural discern. At the launch of a restaurant themed on the American sitcom,* Cheers, *one look at the scarlet baseball-caps and Mayday Malone cocktails was enough. Before the waiters had time to offer him a chocolate-fudge brownie, he was out of the swing-doors and heading home to the Residence.*

P·H·S

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

This is no moment for soundbite diplomacy

Robin Cook meets Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi Foreign Minister, tomorrow in New York. The meeting has been long planned but will now inevitably be dominated by discussion of the harsh sentence handed down on Tuesday by a Saudi court on Lucille McLauchlan and the expected verdict on Deborah Parry, the other nurse accused of murder. It could be a difficult meeting. Mr Cook's intemperate remarks denouncing the sentence of 500 lashes as "wholly unacceptable in the modern world" may backfire, complicating the urgent diplomatic attempts to mitigate the sentence.

To the Western mind, flogging is a brutal punishment, particularly if it is carried out on a woman. But Mr Cook has invoked a moral yardstick that, by calling into question the sharia religious law in force in Saudi Arabia, makes it harder to appeal for clemency should that be the final resort.

As Ghazi al-Ghosaibi, the Saudi Ambassador to London, has insisted, the judgment is only the first step in a lengthy procedure. Under Islamic law, all capital cases are automatically referred to a higher court and can then go to the supreme justice council. Exceptional cases such as this may be personally reviewed by King Fahd. Neither the Ambassador nor the King can dictate the sentence or throw out a verdict deemed to be guided by God. But Mr al-Ghosaibi has stated categorically that neither nurse will be beheaded.

His confidence is based on the extraordinary sensitivity that has surrounded this case. The Saudis have had to steer a difficult course between the demands of Islamic law and domestic opinion and the certainty that execution or flogging would inflict lasting damage on relations with Britain. From the outset, therefore, the Saudis have handled the case with exceptional care. The initial interrogation of the two women appears to have been rough, with well-founded suspicion that the police used extreme intimidation to obtain confessions. Yet the women were given quick access to lawyers, who have played an unprecedented role in the proceedings. Visas have been granted to relatives of the nurses; the British Embassy has been kept informed.

Even if the judges have sifted the evidence meticulously, the most vexed aspect of this case is that it has not even been made available to the defence lawyers, much less laid out in open court. Justice will not have been seen to be done. The defence lawyers hope that this will be remedied on appeal; if sharia is to command secular respect, their request must be met.

Another complication has been the public wrangling over the attempt to induce the brother of Yvonne Gilford to waive his right to insist on the nurses' execution. Islamic law allows for clemency provided the nearest male relation is satisfied — usually with the payment of "diya" or blood money. Acting through intermediaries, the Saudis put considerable pressure on Mr Gilford to agree to such a step. He, however, was adamant that the death penalty should be enforced. It now appears that he has relented — but at a price, according to the nurses' lawyers, of $1.2 million, a sum far beyond their families' means. A Westerner's greed could yet deny the nurses the clemency that Saudi custom makes possible.

The House of Saud is extremely sensitive to suggestions that it deals with Westerners and Christians more leniently than with its own citizens and other foreigners. Dissident exiles taunt the royal family for their links with the West. Any initial verdict strikingly at odds with normal practice would be seized on by fundamentalists to bolster their accusations. The Saudis may therefore be counting on the initial publicity to demonstrate adherence to the sharia while hoping that a less public verdict by the appeals courts will moderate the sentence.

Angry denunciations of the Saudi judgment are counter-productive and only exacerbate a clash of cultures. Sharia law is not Western law, but is respected by Muslims and is gaining ground in the Middle East rather than waning. To denounce the verdict as unacceptable implies that unless Western norms should prevail, the judicial process is unjust. It also implies that Britain has the will and means to change the verdict — which it patently does not. Such talk can only harden opinion in Riyadh. Persuasion must be tried, but always with the understanding that tough words which gain ministers favourable British headlines may not help the accused. It is as important as it will be difficult to ensure an outcome that preserves the vital relationship between Britain and an important Arab ally.

PURITY AND POWER

The strange dithering of Liberal England

This time six months ago, the Liberal Democrats' best hope was a close election result. Then Tony Blair might have had to rely upon them for help. Nobody believed that there was any chance of Paddy Ashdown's party wielding power without an accident of parliamentary arithmetic. Yet the Liberal Democrat leader, with four of his colleagues, is now sitting at the Cabinet table influencing the enactment of the party's most cherished aim: constitutional reform.

One might have thought that the party would be grateful to have been offered this opportunity by a Prime Minister with a 179-strong majority of his own. Already they have won a firm promise of proportional representation for the 1999 European elections, as well as for the Scottish and Welsh assemblies. They have devolution, for which they fought for a century. Soon they will have incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights and, a little later, a Freedom of Information Bill. The Liberal Democrats are at last a part of long-sought changes in the way this country is governed.

That some of them are unhappy with this result illustrates the party's divisions. Most of its activists are local councillors, some of them running multi-million pound budgets. Labour councillors are usually seen as the enemy, and even if the two parties work together in coalition, relations can be fractious. Labour in local government is largely unreformed — there is still a large cultural, social and ideological gulf between old Labour and the Lib Dems. But between new Labour and the Lib Dems there is very little difference. Menzies Campbell, Robert Maclennan and even Mr Ashdown could sit quite comfortably on the Commmons benches alongside Mr Blair. The Prime Minister's views are barely distinguishable from those of Lord Jenkins of Hillhead. Though they would be reluctant to admit it, all these men are from the same broad tribe.

This is what Mr Ashdown was trying to convey to his activists yesterday. "I don't believe," he said, "that the only liberals in Britain are necessarily to be found in the Liberal Democrats . . . British politics is now entering one of its most fluid periods in this century." At last, he argued, 16 years after the new SDP promised to break the mould, it "is beginning to crack."

There are, of course, advantages to Mr Blair too in co-opting the Lib Dems into his "project". This tentative alliance allows him to tap into their expertise on the minutiae of constitutional issues, which they have been studying for far longer than Labour. For all Mr Ashdown's protestations, it may make the Lib Dems a more emollient opposition in Parliament. But, most importantly, it is the first step in the Labour leader's attempt to reunite the centre-left forces in Britain.

If Liberal activists are unwilling to enter into that realignment, then they may as well lay to rest any ambition to change more than the site of their local pelican crossing. If they insist on remaining inward-looking, tribal and ideologically purist, they may just hold on to their grip on street-cleaning and school dinners. But nationally, voters are likely to treat them as they did the inward-looking, tribal and ideologically purist Labour Party of the 1980s.

MAN ON THE MOON

However it first rose, it will always cast a spell for romantics

The Moon may have been made in less than a year. This post-creationist theory follows a long train of explanations of the genesis of Earth's lesser light that rules the night. Erasmus suggested that the Moon was made of green cheese. He may have been teasing. But, as our Science Editor reports today, the new explanation is that the Moon was created in a cosmological flash shorter than the time taken to mature a decent Dutch cheese.

Since man first saw the hidden side of Earth's Moon and landed on its surface, less than 30 years ago, it has emerged as one of the most peculiar bodies in the Solar System. For it is disproportionately too big and too lightweight for its place in the heavens. Its low density is caused by a shortage of iron. And its anaemia and other peculiarities have become questions to puzzle the cosmologists.

Science, though, is willing to speculate. The fission hypothesis suggests the Moon was thrown off a rapidly rotating young planet, in which Earth's iron had already settled into the core. Some say that the Moon "coaccreted" from a disk of smaller bodies (planetesimals) captured into Earth's orbit. Others suggest that the wandering Moon was attracted into orbit intact. The data obtained from the Apollo lunar programme is so anomalous that a modern Erasmus could joke that the only explanation is observational error: the Moon does not really exist.

The latest theory posits a giant collision. An exceptionally large planetesimal struck the Earth off-centre, vaporising much of its crust and mantle into a disk of debris swirling around the planet. This accreted into the Moon. Scientists from Colorado University have been simulating such a primal impact on computers, and today they publish their conclusions. Their models suggest that the body that hit the Earth was much bigger than previously supposed, at least three times the size of Mars. That the debris coalesced in less than a year. That for a while Earth may have had two moons.

The scientists are to be congratulated on their latest fascinating beam of moonshine. But the White Goddess of romance and myth, the controversially feminine principle receiving its light from the Sun, is too old a wonder to be explained away by computer simulation. The Moon is one of the few bodies familiar to everyone on Earth. And it will retain its nightly mystery even when man is sure how it got up there.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Pensions mis-selling: commissions vs salaries and fees

From the Chief Executive of Allied Dunbar Assurance

Sir, You declare that switching from commission to fees and salaries is the only way the public will regain its trust in the insurance industry (leading article, "Beyond shame", September 19). I think you are misguided.

The problems of pensions mis-selling were not caused by the way salesmen are paid. If they were, you would expect all the companies on the Economic Secretary to the Treasury's "naming and shaming" list to have paid their salesmen by commission. In fact, there is a fair mixture of commission and salary-based sales forces.

These problems were caused by, among other reasons, a failure of checking and monitoring systems throughout the industry — systems which have since been developed, significantly strengthened and rigorously monitored specifically to prevent similar problems from occurring in the future. The main effect of a ban on commission would be to deny vital financial advice to large numbers of people.

To do their job properly, financial advisers must carry out a great deal of costly research and consultation with each potential client in the early years before the client decides to buy, often at a time when the client may not be earning much income. Force people to pay fees of several hundred pounds up front without knowing if they want to purchase a product and many, probably most, would choose not to bother. That being the case, how then would the Government meet its aim to encourage people to make their own financial provisions?

Commission charged to the product has the effect of spreading costs over many years, and therefore encourages the client to consult an adviser and think long-term — to the client's benefit. We ban commissions at our peril.

Yours faithfully,
A. STEPHEN MELCHER,
Chief Executive,
Allied Dunbar Assurance plc,
Allied Dunbar Centre,
Swindon SN1 1EL.
September 19.

From Mr Keith Douglas

Sir, I agree with the view expressed in your leader that pensions salesmen and independent financial advisers should be paid salaries or fees rather than commission.

Under a fee-based system the amounts charged by advisers would be more closely scrutinised for value for money. Handing over a cheque for £1,000 for advice is very different from having the same amount deducted from your first two or three years' investments. I don't believe that the majority of investors will accept fees at the levels required to replace existing commission-based incomes.

A fee-based system will require the salesmen in the industry to adjust their income expectations to more reasonable levels, to the benefit of their customers. That is why the industry will not willingly abolish commission-based selling.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH DOUGLAS,
4 Thickwillow,
Godmanchester,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.
keithdouglas@compuserve.com
September 19.

From Mr Philip Prior

Sir, May I suggest that the answer to the mis-selling problem is for the Government to ban the companies concerned from selling any more pension schemes until the matter is put right.

I fancy that the effect would be instantaneous.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP PRIOR,
135 Chalmers Street,
Dunfermline, Fife.
September 20.

From Mr David Crawford

Sir, All I read about is mis-selling of pensions. Was there no mis-buying?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CRAWFORD,
Mill Bridge, Bell Busk,
Skipton-in-Craven, North Yorkshire.
September 19.

Labour and Lib Dems

From Professor Earl Russell

Sir, Labour are now telling the Liberal Democrats we cannot pick and choose on which issues we co-operate with them. They say we cannot continue to co-operate on constitutional reform unless we change our policies on taxation and spending. They ask us for what we cannot give. We cannot go before the voters believing we are unable to offer effective remedies for some 80 per cent of the grievances they ask us to redress.

Before they burn their boats, Labour should ask ministers in the Lords whether, when the devolution Bill is before us, they wish to dispense with the co-operation we freely gave them on the Referendum Bill. Indeed, they should ask whether they have the power to stop us co-operating when we want to. Whether they like it or not, Labour must continue to co-operate with the Liberal Democrats on constitutional reform. Otherwise they will not get their business through the Upper House.

Yours sincerely,
RUSSELL,
House of Lords.
September 24.

From Mr Adrian Slade

Sir, Peter Mandelson's criticisms of Paddy Ashdown ("Pipe down Paddy, you need Labour", September 23) should not surprise Liberal Democrats but simply confirm that the consultative committee Mr Mandelson has helped to set up, in the name of pluralism and the new politics, is a heffalump trap lined with hidden conditions.

The Tories having emasculated themselves as an Opposition, why not buy off the Liberal Democrats with a voice in Cabinet on constitutional issues, on the understanding, of course, that they do not criticise the Government on other issues? When you have a large majority, you do not need to work with other parties, but it flatters them and can keep them quiet.

Charles Kennedy is right that there is a huge opportunity for the Liberal Democrats to become the effective, as well as constructive, opposition to Labour. Richard Holme is wrong to assume that Liberal Democrats who feel uncomfortable with the constitutional committee are against coalition when the election result, or voting system, dictates. But in this Parliament, with a Government majority of 178, it does not.

With or without Liberal Democrat involvement, the Labour Government can still do what it wants when it wants. Without meaningful opposition it undoubtedly will.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN SLADE
(President, Liberal Party, 1987-88),
28 St Leonards Road, SW14.
September 23.

London rats

From Mr Andrew Butler

Sir, According to Kensington & Chelsea council, "rats are still sensitive to the poisons we use" (Body and mind, September 11).

If by "sensitive" the council means slow and agonising death as the poison causes massive internal haemorrhaging usually manifested by profuse bleeding from the eyes, then it is correct.

Perhaps, therefore, "sensitive" is not strong enough a word for the reaction rats have to poisons. "Insensitive" is certainly not strong enough a word for the actions of Kensington & Chelsea council.

Humane trapping and contraception programmes are just two of the alternative ways of dealing with this problem.

Yours sincerely,
A. BUTLER
(UK Representative, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals),
PO Box 3169, London SW15 3ZG.

Opposition view on London's future

From Mr Richard Ottaway, MP for Croydon South (Conservative)

Sir, Next May, following the precedents of Scotland and Wales, Londoners will be invited to participate in a referendum on the Government's proposals for a Greater London authority comprising a mayor and an assembly. Both proposals should be considered separately in a two-question referendum.

There are merits in the proposal for a directly elected mayor, which the Conservative Party supports. He or she will be a voice for London, a champion of Londoners and will have a mandate to promote London on the world and national stage.

There are, however, conflicting views as to whether or not a Greater London authority would have the same effectiveness. Londoners are already well represented by 32 London boroughs with a wealth of expertise and experience of local government.

Many believe that an additional layer of local government is unnecessary, bureaucratic and costly. It will add nothing to the better government of London and will probably be a backward step. There will be conflict between the boroughs and the authority, between the assembly and the mayor. This will lead to indecisiveness and gridlock, to the detriment of Londoners.

Under the circumstances, the Conservative Party believes there should be two questions in the referendum: do Londoners want (i) a mayor (yes or no) and (ii) a Greater London assembly (yes or no)?

For varying reasons others may want an authority and not a mayor. Whatever their position, a true sounding of Londoners' feelings cannot be achieved by grouping these proposals together in a single question. There must be two separate questions where the merits of both proposals can be fully debated.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD OTTAWAY
(Opposition Spokesman for London),
House of Commons.
September 22.

Drink and health

From Mr Rodney Legg

Sir, Many of us are increasingly indebted to daily doses of Dr Tom Stuttaford. Seeing his name each morning reminds me to swallow a "blood-thinning" aspirin tablet.

His articles, including the extracts from his book on alcohol (September 13-17; letters, September 20) provide a welcome antidote to half a century of censure against life's little enjoyments. At last there is reassurance that moderate indulgences are not only good for us (physiologically as well as psychologically) but promise to be livesaving.

As for the measure, it is hardly to be regretted that two to four glasses of claret a day, with meals, may well prove to be more effective than drinking just one.

Cheers to our greatest guru.

Yours sincerely,
RODNEY LEGG,
The National School,
North Street, Wincanton, Somerset.

From Mr Eric Sjogren

Sir, Every time a claim is made that drink is good for you, practising alcoholics around the world stand up and cheer. They have just been handed another argument to continue drinking and refuse help.

Dr Stuttaford takes care to point out that his recommendations refer to moderate drinkers. For every non-drinking, recovering alcoholic there are vast numbers of active alcoholics who insist that they always drink in moderation.

It seems that drink played a part in the crash in which Princess Diana died. How many other alcohol-related traffic deaths go unreported every day? Nations do not mourn them, but families do. How many suicides? How many battered women, abused children, ruined careers, bankrupt businesses?

I cast no aspersion on Dr Stuttaford's agenda or the validity of the findings he reports. But every medical man must be aware of side effects, and the side effect of his book, magnified through your serialisation, is to encourage "moderate" drinkers in the pursuit of their deadly addiction.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC SJOGREN,
37 rue Groeselenberg,
1180 Brussels.
September 15.

Immigration queues

From the Home Office Minister

Sir, Today's item, "So tired of waiting" (Inns and Outs, Law) misrepresents the situation in the Immigration Directorate's Public Enquiry Office (PEO) at Lunar House in Croydon.

The PEO provides a free service aimed at individuals. Many have travelled long distances, at their own expense, to see our staff. On some days, we see over 1,000 people.

They are not "City lawyers and businessmen" camping out all night, but couriers representing paid agents delivering block applications from clients. If these are handled as one enquiry lengthy queues develop and individual applicants are made to wait longer.

To make this fairer, staff now examine one case per person and use a fast-track postal system which deals with individual applications in a few days.

Agents are invited to come on a designated day when they can present up to six applications in one go.

Yours sincerely,
MIKE O'BRIEN,
Home Office,
50 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
September 23.

Catholics at Queens

From Sir Gordon Beveridge, Vice-Chancellor of The Queen's University of Belfast

Sir, Your report of September 18, headed "Women-only battle for Irish presidency", claims that Professor Mary McAleese, a candidate for the presidency, was "the first Catholic to gain a senior position in Queen's". This is incorrect.

Roman Catholics have been professors, heads of department, directors of schools and institutes, deans of faculties and pro-vice-chancellor, in the years prior to Professor McAleese's appointment.

Two Roman Catholics, including a distinguished cleric, have been senior pro-chancellors, acting, *inter alia*, as Chairman of Senate, the university's governing body. However Professor McAleese, as you stated, was "the university's first woman pro-vice-chancellor".

Yours sincerely,
GORDON BEVERIDGE,
Vice-Chancellor,
The Queen's University of Belfast,
Belfast BT7 1NN.
September 22.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

The right stuff for military greatness

From Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin

Sir, Reading Colonel Lanning's league table of military leaders and the subsequent correspondence in your columns (reports, September 15; letters, September 17, 20), I reflect that very many of the generals would not have reached the battlefields without assured free use of the sea and enough ships to keep them supplied with the necessities of war.

"He who commands the sea has command of everything." Themistocles, 500BC. Still true.

Yours sincerely,
LEWIN,
House of Lords.
September 20.

From Mr Clive Fairweather

Sir, Colonel Lanning's list should surely take account of leaders whose victories significantly changed the practice and technology of war.

The fall of Constantinople in 1453 was effected by the siege guns of Mohammed II, breaching walls that had stood firm for a thousand years. This awesome firepower marked a turning point in history.

The Hussite Wars between religious factions in 15th century Bohemia saw the first effective use of tanks and hand-guns under the charismatic leadership of the blind general Ziska von Troknov (1370-1424). Here is a man of noted fame, if only for the story (which Montaigne relates) that Ziska wished his own dead body to be flayed and turned into a drum-skin, so that he could continue to rally his forces and unnerve his enemies, even from beyond the grave.

If the drum were extant, no doubt we should see it in the Royal Academy before too long.

Yours sincerely,
CLIVE FAIRWEATHER,
3 Bow Road,
Harbertonford, Totnes, Devon.
September 22.

From Mr Bernard Kaukas

Sir, For an American lieutenant-colonel to place Montgomery 32 places above General Patton (no 95) in his list of military leaders shows great discernment — but even greater courage.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD KAUKAS,
13 Lynwood Road,
Ealing, W5.
September 20.

From Mr Peter Ewart

Sir, So George Washington was the greatest commander of all, because without him there would have been no United States.

How ironic that your report appeared on Battle of Britain Day, and that no place at all was found in the list for Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding.

Yours faithfully,
PETER EWART,
Gipsy Court Cottage,
Shatterling, Canterbury, Kent.
September 22.

Treasure trove

From Mr David Graham

Sir, Eight years ago the Surrey Archaeological Society started a campaign for the reform of the ancient law of treasure trove with a letter to *The Times* (October 28, 1989). Today (September 24), after a great deal of work by many individuals and organisations, the new Treasure Act comes into force, replacing a law dating from the time of Richard the Lionheart. An historic moment for anyone interested in the nation's heritage.

Thank you to everyone involved and particularly to *The Times* for helping to bring this about.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GRAHAM
(Vice-President),
Surrey Archaeological Society,
Castle Arch, Guildford, Surrey.
david-graham@classic.msn.com
September 24.

Restraint of income

From Mr Alfred E. Norris

Sir, Mr Blair's decision (report, September 17) to forgo his salary increase of £41,000 per year is to be applauded.

In the same spirit I would call on all my fellow pensioners not to accept their increase of 25p per week when reaching the age of 80.

Yours faithfully,
A. E. NORRIS,
Sea Winds, 14 Beacon Heights,
Point Clear, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.
September 17.

Wild Wiltshire

From Mr J. B. Pollock

Sir, What is going on at the Basserts in Wiltshire? In Compton Bassett, I read today, an angry villager sabotaged the church bells and the same page carries the titillating revelation that a JP bared her bum in Wootton Bassett.

However, even though these reports were on page 3 there was no accompanying photo of the latter — what a swiz — but it all makes a change from the corn circle reports of a decade ago.

Yours sincerely,
J. B. POLLOCK,
Oyster Cottage, Mill Yard,
Burnham Market, Norfolk.
September 18.

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 24: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, this afternoon attended a Meeting of the Board of Trustees at the Society's National Centre, Curtain Road, London EC2.

Her Royal Highness, President, this evening attended the opening performance of the Royal Ballet's season at the Labatt's Apollo, Hammersmith, London W6.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 24: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester today visited Northumberland and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (the Viscount Ridley KG).

Their Royal Highnesses this morning visited Amble and viewed the regeneration plan for the town.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon visited Lindisfarne Castle, Holy Island.

Their Royal Highnesses later visited Bamburgh Castle.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester afterwards visited the Grace Darling Museum at St Aidan's Parish Church, Bamburgh.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
September 24: The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, this afternoon named the Royal National Lifeboat "Pride of the Humber" at Hull Marina, Kingston-upon-Hull, and was received by Mr Thomas Boyd (Deputy Lieutenant for the East Riding of Yorkshire).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, the London Philharmonic, this evening attended a Concert given by the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir at the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
September 24: Princess Alexandra this afternoon opened the Women's Royal Voluntary Service Stewart House Coffee Shop in Looms Lane, Bury St Edmunds, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk (the Lord Belstead).

Her Royal Highness subsequently opened the new wing of St Edmunds Hospital, St Mary's Square, Bury St Edmunds.

Princess Alexandra, President, later visited the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Shop, 26 Abbeygate Street, Bury St Edmunds.

Her Royal Highness, Patron of the Fiftieth Anniversary Year of the London Philharmonic Choir, this evening attended a Concert given by the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir at the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1.

Birthdays today

Professor Struther Arnott, FRS, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of St Andrews, 63; Mr N.W. Ayrton, theatre and opera director, 73; Mr Ronnie Barker, actor, 68; Sir Leon Brittan, QC, a vice-president of the European Commission, 58; Sir Colin Davis, conductor, 70; Mr Martin Dermott, rugby league player, 30; Mr Michael Douglas, actor, 53; Sir John Farr, former MP, 75; Sir Florizel Glasspole, former Governor-General of Jamaica, 88; Mr John Hills, racehorse trainer, 37; Sir David Hunt, former diplomat, 84; General Sir Edward Jones, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, 61; Miss Felicity Kendal, actress, 51; Professor Sir William Mitchell, FRS, physicist, 72; Mr Timothy Severin, author and explorer, 57; Miss Vivien Stern, former director, Nacro, 56; Commandant Daphne Swallow, former director, WRNS, 65; Miss Rowena Vining, former diplomat, 76; Mr Nicholas Wood, former president, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 49.

Mrs Nancy Wansbrough

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Nancy Wansbrough will be held in Winchester Cathedral on Saturday, October 25, at 2pm.

Retirement

Judge Davidson, QC, retired from the Midland and Oxford Circuit Bench on Tuesday.

Dinners

Basketmakers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Mr Sheriff and Mrs Knowles, attended the annual dinner of the Basketmakers' Company held last night at the Mansion House. Mr John Hefferman, Prime Warden, presided. The Lord Mayor, Mr Douglas Imrie-Brown, Junior Warden, and Mr Ma Zhengang, Ambassador of China, also spoke.

Defence and Security Forum
Mr Martin Bell, MP, was the guest speaker at a dinner of the Defence and Security Forum, held last night at the Carlton Club. Lady Olga Maitland, president, was in the chair.

Service dinner

The Royal Irish Regiment
Colonel R.G. Rowe, Colonel of The Royal Irish Regiment, presided at a Colonel-in-Chief's Dining Club dinner held last night in Antrim.

The Army Benevolent Fund

General Sir Robert Ford retired as President of the Army Benevolent Fund on September 24, 1997, and has been succeeded in that appointment by Field Marshal Lord Inge.

Farriers' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Farriers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mrs D.M. Pagan; Upper Warden, Mr T.F.M. Head; Middle Warden, Mr R.J. Crocker; Renter Warden, Lady Graham.

PETER TRIEVNOR



Lady Junor, widow of Sir John, with their daughter Penny and three of the grandchildren yesterday

Memorial service: Sir John Junor

Sir John Junor
A service of thanksgiving and celebration for the life of Sir John Junor, former Editor of the *Sunday Express*, was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. Canon John Oates officiated.

Mr Sam Leith, grandson, read the lesson. Miss Penny Junor, daughter, and Mr Peter McKay read from a selection of John Junor's writings. Mr Roderick Junor, son, read *Ebbtide at Sundown* by Michael Field and Viscount Rothermere, Chairman, *Daily Mail* and General Trust, gave an address.

Niall Rowantree from Fettes College, Edinburgh, played the bagpipes.

Mr John Major, MP, attended and the Leader of HM Opposition was represented by Mr Charles Hendry. Among others present were:
Lady Junor (widow), Mrs Roderick Junor (daughter-in-law), Mr James Leith (son-in-law), Mr Alexander Leith, Jack and Peta Leith (grandchildren), Mr and Mrs Muir Junor, Mr Neal Junor and Mr Alistair Junor.

Viscountess Rothermere, Sir David English (chairman, Associated Newspapers) with Mr Paul Dacre (Editor, *Daily Mail*), Mr Jonathan Holborow (Editor, *The Mail on Sunday*), Mr Roderick Gilchrist (Deputy Editor), Mr Louis Kirby (Editor, *UK Mail*), Mr Vyvyan Harmsworth (Director of Corporate Affairs, Daily Mail and General Trust) and past and present members of the group.

Lord Deedes, Lord and Lady Barber, Lord Tebbit, CH, Lady Shawcross, Lord St John of Fawsley, Lord King of Wartnaby, Mr Richard Ryder, the Hon Alan Clark, MP, Lady Olga Maitland, the Hon Jeremy Deedes (managing director, Telegraph Group) the Hon Lady Dundas, Sir Denis Thatcher, Sir Edward Pickering, Sir Bernard Ingham, Sir Gordon Reece, Sir George Gardiner.

Mr Stuart Kuttner (Managing Editor, *News of the World*), Mr Charles Wilson (managing director, Mirror Group), Mr Richard Addis (*The Express*) with Mr John McEntee and other past and present members of staff: Mr Henry Macrory (Assistant Editor, *The Daily Star*), Mr Charles Garside (*The European*), Mr John Knight (*East African Standard*, Nairobi).

Mr Stewart Steven, Mr Richard Ingrams, Mr A N Wilson, Mr Nigel Dempster, Mr Peter Tory, Mr Brian Vine, Mr Milton Shulman, Mr Alexander Walker, Ms Clare Latimer, Mr Eric Sykes, Mr Ned Sherrin, Mrs Edward Sutro, Mrs E Cundy-Cooper, Mr and Mrs Peter Dacre, Mr and Mrs Brian Nicholson, Mr John Bird, Mr Bernard Shrimsley, Mr Arthur Brittenden, Mr Robert Edwards, Mr Charles Anson, Mr J Howard Macdonald, the Rev Christopher Blissard-Barnes, Mr Anthony Marshall, Mr Craig Orr, Mr Geoff Powell, Mr Stuart Savage, Dr Mary Nicol, Mr and Mrs Tom Utley, Mr James Murray, Mrs Pauline Kavanagh, Mr Roy Sellwood.

Mr David Gibson, Ms Sally Staples, Mr John Morley, Mr Lewis de Fries, Miss Sally Brampton, Mr Alan Hoby, Mr David Wigg, Mr David Burnside, Mr Andrew Edwards, Mr Michael Dove, Mr Michael Watts, Mr David Broad, Mr Ian Benfield, Mr James Nicoll, Mr John Edwards, Mr Geoffrey Levy, Mr M Murphy, Mr F Laen Oldham, Mr Ken Lawrence, Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Parkes, Mr Max Davidson, Ms Penny Hart, Mr Douglas Howell, Mr Rodney Bennett-England, Mr B Park.

Mr Frank Robson, Mr Simon Courtauld, Mr David Stirling, Mr Alan Watkins, Mr Alan Dickie, Miss Alison Meek, Mr Russell Forgham, Mr William Massie, Mr Clive Hirschhorn, Mr Seamus Potter, Mr Richard Compton Miller, Miss Glenys Roberts, Miss Muriel Bowen, Mr James Leason, Mr Charles Whitby, QC, Mr Pearson Philips, Mr Peter Chambers, Mr Fenton Bressler, Mr David Gibson, Mr Derek Bristow, Mr Ross Benson, Mr David Fitzpatrick, Miss Phillipa Kennedy, Ms Gill Martin, Mr Tim Satchell, Mr Peter Grosvenor, Ms Melanie McDonagh.

Mr Johnnie Johnson (London Press Club), Mr D Griffiths (British Newspaper Library), Miss S Edwards (BBC, Wales), Mr Mark Hamilton (PA Law Courts), Mr Robin Findlay (Newspaper Press Fund), Mr Don Short (Solo Books), Mr Alan Peatling (RNA Fleet Street branch), Mr Michael Simmonds and Mr T S Corrigan (Walton Heath Golf Club), Mr Andrew Murray (Fettes College, Edinburgh), Mr Peter Ruck (Lumley Lewis), Mr Keith Hopkins (Lowe Bell Good Relations), Mr John N Wates (International Horn Society) and Mrs Wates, Mr David Vacha and Mr I R Scott (Ashurst Morris Crisp) Mr Michael Moriarty and Mr Chris Underwood (IOJ) and many other friends and former colleagues.

School news

Saint Felix School for Girls
The Governors of Saint Felix School, Southwold, are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Richard Williams as Headmaster. Mr Williams is currently Deputy Head of Queen Margarer's School, York and will take up his appointment at Saint Felix in January, 1998.

Latymer Upper School, London W6
The Headmaster, Mr C. Diggory, and the Chairman of the Latymer Foundation, Dr J. Edelman, CBE, were the hosts at a Dinner held on Tuesday night at Latymer Upper School after the annual Prize Giving Ceremony. The Right Revd Michael Colclough, Bishop of Kensington, was the Guest of Honour. Mr G. Gurney, Chairman of the Old Latymerian Association, Governors, staff and other guests, were among those present.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Romaine, theologian and preacher, Hartlepool, 1714; Abraham Werner, geologist, Upper Lusatia, Saxony, 1750; Felicia Hemans, poet, Liverpool, 1793; Thomas Morgan, geneticist, Nobel laureate 1933, Lexington, Kentucky, 1866; Sir Charles Cochran, impresario, Lindfield, Sussex, 1872; William Faulkner, novelist, Nobel laureate 1949, New Albany, Mississippi, 1897; Mark Rothko, painter, Daugavpils, Russia, 1903; Dmitri Shostakovich, composer, St Petersburg, 1906; Glenn Gould, pianist, Toronto, 1932.

DEATHS: Johann Heinrich Lambert, mathematician, Berlin, 1777; Johann Strauss the Elder, violinist and composer, Vienna, 1849; John Watson, psychologist, New York, 1958; Erich Maria Remarque, author of *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Locarno, 1970; Walter Pidgeon, film actor, Santa Monica, California, 1984; Emlyn Williams, actor, London, 1987.

The first transfusion using human blood, as opposed to animal blood, took place at Guy's Hospital, 1818.

Britain's first motor bus service started in Bradford, 1897.

Catalonia in Spain became autonomous with its own parliament, language and flag, 1932.

Bishop of Grantham

The Rev Alastair Llewellyn John Redfern, Canon Residentiary at Bristol Cathedral and Diocesan Training Officer for Bristol, has been appointed to the Suffragan See of Grantham in the Diocese of Lincoln in succession to the Right Rev William Ind on his translation to the See of Truro.

Luncheons

HM Government
Mr George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at Admiralty House in honour of Dr Tony Tan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Singapore.

Carlton Club
Mr Iain Duncan Smith, Opposition spokesman for social security, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Carlton Club Political Committee held yesterday at the club. Sir Brian Goswell, chairman of the committee, presided.

Rutland Lieutenancy

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Rutland: Mrs Elizabeth Anne Bingley, of Wing. Sir Clifford John Boulton, of Lyddington. Dr Laurence Howard, of Whissendine.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.A. Catmur and Miss N.M.E. Turton
The engagement is announced between David Alan, son of the late Mr Peter Catmur and of Mrs Catmur, of Otham, Kent, and Natalia Maud Elizabeth, elder daughter of the Hon Gerald and Mrs Turton, of Thirsk, North Yorkshire.

Mr J.W.G. Newall and Miss S.B. Allison
The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Jamie Newall, Coldstream Guards, younger son of Sir Paul and Lady Newall, of Yoxford, Suffolk, and Sacha, daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Allison, of Harcourt Hill, Oxford.

Mr J.A.S. Henderson and Miss C.D. Carlisle
The engagement is announced between James, son of Colonel and Mrs Dugald Henderson, of Tisbury, Wiltshire, and Celia, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Carlisle, of Hartley Wintney, Hampshire.

Mr T.M. Skinner and Miss S.D. Wheeler
The engagement is announced between Tom, youngest son of the late Dr and Mrs John Skinner, of Trowell, Nottinghamshire, and Suvi, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Kenneth Wheeler, of Lewes, East Sussex.

Mr G.I. Townsend and Miss R.E.C. Green
The engagement is announced between Gavin, first son of Mr and Mrs John Townsend, of Fairmilehead, Edinburgh, and Rachel, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Martyn Hardman Green, of Heighington Village, County Durham.

Mr C. Ward-Jackson and Miss F.L. Garland
The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Mr Peter Ward-Jackson and the late Mrs Ward-Jackson, of London, and Fiona, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs William Garland, of Dalrymple, Ayrshire.

Mr M.M.G. Wright and Miss S.L. Windebank
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Wright, of Reigate, Surrey, and Sophia, daughter of the Revd and Mrs Clive Windebank, of Streatley-on-Thames, Berkshire.

Mr N.R. Bennett and Miss J.S. Tydeman
The engagement is announced between Neil Robert, son of Dr Peter and Dr Jennifer Bennett, of Bath, and Jacqueline Sara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Tydeman, of Poole, Dorset.

Mr J. Brewer and Miss C. Grier
The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs John Brewer, of Deddington, Oxfordshire, and Cathy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Grier, of Villiera Wine Estate, South Africa.

Marriages

Mr J.D.S. Heal and Ms J.A.M. O'Dwyer
The marriage took place on Friday, September 19, at St Dunstan's, Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, of Mr James Heal, eldest son of the Rev D.W. and Mrs Heal, of Ceredigion and the Algarve, to Ms Jackie O'Dwyer, daughter of Mrs Nora Sands and the late Mr Cecil Sands, of Kilrush, Co Clare, Ireland. Father Michael Griffiths and the Rev David Heal officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by Mr Mike Wright, best friend of the late Cecil Sands, was attended by Mrs Marie Murray and her daughter Niamh, and Mrs Brid Vaughan. Captain Edward Heal was best man.

Mr Richard Noden and Padraig O'Dwyer were groomsmen.

A reception was held in Monkey Island Hotel, Bray, and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr D.A.E. Leach and Signorina S. Guzzo
The marriage took place on Sunday, September 14, 1997, at the Chiesa di Santo Domenico, Cosenza, Italy, of Mr Alan Leach, youngest son of Dr and Mrs Rodney Leach, of Grasmere, Cumbria, to Signorina Sonia Guzzo, only daughter of Signor and Signora Alfonso Guzzo, of Cosenza, Calabria, Italy. Mr and Mrs D.A.E. Leach will live in London.

Mr P.M. Murphy and Mrs B.R. Wightman
The marriage took place on September 13 at St Margaret's Church, Newton, Cambridge, between Mr Peter Murphy and Mrs Bridget Wightman.

Latest wills

The 2nd Baron Horder, Chairman of Gerald Duckworth and Co, 1948-70, of London NW8, left estate valued at £202,515 net.

Raymond **Cardwell**, of North Cotes, Grimsby, Humberside, left estate valued at £4,392,393 net.

Margaret-Helene **Markus**, of London SW1, left estate valued at £4,461,976 net.
She left shares in her residuary estate to Wood Green Animal Shelters, Redwings Horse Sanctuary, Animal Health Trust, Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Fund and St Christopher's Hospice.

Millicent Joan **Burfitt**, of Maidenhead, Berkshire, left estate valued at £2,513,981 net.

Patrick David **Cheesemans**, of Nutley, Uckfield, East Sussex, left estate valued at £2,350,748 net.

Rosemary Enid **Newton**, of Shotover Hill, Headington, Oxford, left estate valued at £1,031,292 net.

Martha Joyce **Norman**, of Southsea, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,896,930 net.
She left £500 to the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation.

Walter **Oppenheimer**, of London NW11, left estate valued at £1,294,613 net.

Antoinette **Powell-Cotton**, of Margate, Kent, left estate valued at £1,713,122 net.

Sydney Francis **Proffitt**, of Penn, Wolverhampton, left estate valued at £1,065,640 net.

William Edward **Smith**, of Codsall, Wolverhampton, left estate valued at £1,519,060 net.

Kenneth David **Symmons**, retired chartered surveyor, of Chislehurst, Kent, left estate valued at £1,979,198 net.

Peter Boyton **Taylor**, of Dullingham, Newmarket, Suffolk, left estate valued at £1,264,072 net.

Reginald George **Taylor**, of Wickwar, South Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £2,047,484 net.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
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TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

I shall search for the lost, recover the straggler, bandage the injured, strengthen the sick, leave the healthy and strong to play, and give my flock their proper food. Ezekiel 34 : 16

BIRTHS

ARTHUR - On September 16th 1997 at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Alison (née Collins) and Michael, a daughter, Sophie Elizabeth.

BROWN - On September 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Stacey (née D'Orazio) and Elliot Evans, a beautiful son, Caleb Anthony.

CALDWELL - On Wednesday 17th September 1997, to Duncan and Susi (née Barton), a beautiful daughter, Lucy.

CARY - On September 17th in Weybridge, Surrey, to Sybil (née Fennell) and Chris, a son, William.

CHRISTIE - On September 20th at the Royal Surrey Hospital, to Gillian and Stephen, a son, Edward Stephen Donald.

DOWNIE - On September 15th in Salisbury, to Hannah (née Wright) and Ian, a son, James, a brother for Eleanor.

GEE - On September 17th to Suzie (née Bayliss) and Colin, a beautiful daughter, Hermione Nina, a sister for Tabitha, Bay and Ellamanda.

HUGHES - On September 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Claire and Gavin, a daughter, Charlotte Valerie.

JONES - To Julie (née Whadcock) and Gareth on 19th September, in Melbourne, Australia, a daughter, Bethan Ellen.

LAWRENCE - On September 20th, to Jane and Mark, a daughter, Cressida Rose Betsy.

LAWSON-SMITH - On September 15th, to Melise and Clive, a daughter, Araminta Louise, a sister for Marina.

MARCHESI - On September 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Paola and Alessandro, a son, Vittorio, a brother for Benedetta.

NAKAMURA - On September 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Rika and Shigeaki, a son, Tasuya, a brother for Ryuta.

PAYNE - Nina (née Ringstad) and Jude, are delighted to announce the arrival of Rosie Elizabeth on Tuesday 16th September, a beautiful daughter and a sister to Fraser.

PURNESS - On September 23rd, to Alice (née Cook) and Simon, a beautiful daughter, Emily Grace, a sister for Rebecca.

RAINE - On 22nd September 1997 at the Harrogate Hospital, to Josephine (née Watt) and Mark, a beautiful daughter, Rebecca.

ROSS - On Sunday 21st September 1997 in Los Angeles, to Andrea (née Feck) and Robert, a daughter.

BIRTHS

SCHOFIELD - On September 14th in Jerusalem, to James and Maureen, a son, Theodore Alexander Francois, a brother for Hugh.

SORBY-STRAW - To Caroline (née de Wolfe) and Ashley on September 13th at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, the joy of a first-born son, Macmillan Llewellyn.

TWEEDIE - Carl and Paola (née Mazzallino) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their twin sons on September 19th. Grateful thanks to all staff at the Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

HAMMOND:WEBB - On September 25th 1937 at The Parish Church, Dawlish, David to Barbara, now at Sidmouth. Love, from all the family.

PEARL ANNIVERSARIES

ASHTIANI:VANNUCCHI - On 25th September, 1967 at the Abbazia di S. Egidio Fontanella di Sotto il Monte, Italy. Paul Parham to Maria Gabriella. Deo Gratias.

DEATHS

ACKROYD - Suddenly on 23rd September at her home Lady Jennifer Ackroyd, beloved wife of the late John and loving mother and grandmother. Funeral Service to take place on Tuesday 30th September at Christchurch, Victoria Road, Kensington, London W8 at 11 am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to The Dystonia Society c/o J.H. Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, London W8 6LA, tel: (0171) 937-0757.

BANKS - Peter Alan F.Eng., F.I.C.E., F.C.I.W.E.M., died peacefully aged 67 years on Sunday, 21st September at St Mary's Hospice, Ulverston. Dearest husband of Joan, wonderful father and guide to daughters Kathleen and Diana. A loving and much loved grandpa to Ben, Tom, Daniel and Alice. His warmth, strength and generosity of spirit will be much missed by all who knew him. He was a Past Master of the Company of Water Conservators and Co-Founder and Director of IRTT (Trenchless Technology). The Funeral and Thanksgiving Service is on Monday 29th September at 2 pm in All Saints Church, Underberrow. A memorial service will be held in London at a later date. Family flowers only. Donations to Peter's memory to St Mary's Hospice, Ulverston, Cumbria, if desired. If you cannot be with us, we know your thoughts and prayers will be.

BENSON - Arthur Noel (Peter) F.R.I.C.S. died peacefully aged 74 on 23rd September following a brave fight against cancer. Beloved husband of Norah, father of Jane, Sarah and Peter and grandfather of Joe, Edward, Jessamy and Timothy. Thanksgiving Mass at St Saviours Church, South Street, Eastbourne at 10.30am on Saturday 4th October. No flowers please, but donations if desired to St Wilfrids Hospice, Eastbourne.

CASCAS - Bernard Frederick suddenly at home Old Oaks, Honington, beloved and dearest husband of Stella Joyce. Funeral Service Saturday 27th September at 1.30 pm All Saints Church, Honington, Suffolk.

CHRISTIE - Eric William Hunter. Bencher of Lincoln's Inn, Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers and Freeman of Stanley in the Falkland Islands. On Sunday 21st September, peacefully, after a prolonged and most courageous battle with cancer. Loving and much loved companion of Lynn Wagner, husband of Maria, father of Robert, Fiona, Niall and Catriona (Tig), grandfather of Charlotte, Ben, Alex and Katie. Funeral on Friday 3rd October at 2pm at St Andrew's Church, Battery Hill, Fairlight. Donations to St Michael's Hospice, St Leonards-on-Sea or flowers to Towner, funeral directors, 2 & 4 Norman Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, telephone 01424-436386. Memorial service at Lincoln's Inn to be announced later.

CULLERNE-BOWN - Cecil Edgar. Peacefully on 20th September in hospital after a short illness aged 89 years. Dear husband of Vera and beloved father of Neville, Alan and Rosemary. Funeral Service at St John's Church, Egham, at 11 am on 29th September, followed by burial at Thorpe. Flowers and enquiries to Egham and Hythe Funeral Directors, tel: (01784) 464749.

EUSTACE - Lt. Col. David Waring, M.B.E. L.I. on 19th September 1997, tragically in the Southall train crash, aged 53. Adored husband and father of Maggie, Jeremy, Gavin and Katherine and deeply loved son of Lady Abraham. Funeral on Tuesday 30th September at 2.30 pm, Our Lady Undercroft, Canterbury Cathedral, entrance by the South Door. Family flowers only, donations if desired to The Officers' Pensions Society Widows Fund c/o R.H. Cornell Funeral Directors, 25 Albert Road, Deal, Kent CT14 9RE, tel: (01304) 373276.

FALKINER - Sir Edmond Charles, Bt (8d). Sadly was killed in a car crash in Northern Spain on Saturday 20th September. He is survived by his wife Diana and his two sons Ben and Max.

GALSWORTHY - On Tuesday 23rd September 1997 peacefully at home after a long illness so patiently and bravely borne, Jennifer Ruth Galsworthy MBE, widow of Sir John Galsworthy. Loving and beloved mother of Michael, Merrya, Bridget and Amanda and adored grandmother. Funeral Service Friday 26th September 2.30 pm St Just in Roseland Church followed by private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Jennifer will be held at 2.30 pm at Probus Parish Church Wednesday 1st October 1997. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu if desired for The Mermaid Appeal may be sent c/o the funeral directors W.J. Easwetherick & Son Ltd., Central House, Falmouth Street, Truro. Tel: 01872 274021.

HENSON - Henry Michael George (Mike) on 18th September in Sherborne aged 53. Much loved husband of Michela, father of Sarah-Louise, Amanda and Tanya and grandfather of Max. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at St. John the Evangelist Church, Milborne Port, Nr. Sherborne, Dorset on 1st October at 3pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired c/o W.S. Brister & Son, 109 Lenthay Road, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 6AG. Tel. No. 01935 812667, for cancer research.

HILL - Paul Timothy. Died tragically on Sunday September 14th 1997. "True love never dies" Justin.

HICK - Simon Alfred Trestrail died peacefully after a long illness on 18th September. Loved husband of Andrea and devoted Daddy of Abigail and Jessica. No flowers please. Donations to The Princess Alice Hospice, Esher KT10 8HA.

JOHNSON - Edmund George, on September 21st 1997, of Woodbridge, Suffolk aged 99 years. Cremation private, donations if desired for Sue Ryder Foundation R.B. Button & Sons, Ltd. 24 St John's Street, Woodbridge IP12 1EB.

JORDAN - Kate. Died suddenly on September 21st. Treasured friend and constant companion of Rosemary, dearly loved mother of Nathan, Ingrid and Michele and grandmother of Cael. You are loved by so many friends and will live forever in our hearts. Farewell service: Manor Park Cemetery, Sebert Road, Forest Gate E7, on Friday September 26th at 2pm. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to Save the Children or a charity of your choice.

KAUFMANN - Maurice Harington on September 21st after a long battle courageously fought, loving father of Lottie and Bunnsby. Service will take place Monday 29th September at West London Crematorium at 11.30 am. No flowers please but donations to Cancer Relief Macmillan Nurses.

MOUNTEVANS - Deirdre Grace (née O'Connell), suddenly but peacefully on Tuesday 16th September in London. Widow of Richard, beloved mother of Rosine, Jeffrey and Lucinda, and devoted grandmother of Alexander and Julian. Family Funeral. Details of memorial service to be announced. Donations if desired to the DGAA, Vicarage Gate House. Flowers and all enquiries to Messrs. J.H Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, Kensington, London W8. (Tel. 0171 937 0757).

REDSHAW - Trevor. Very dear husband of Pat and father of Tracey, Guy, John and Hayley. Suddenly September 17th. Funeral at The Minster, Eastwater, was held September 23rd, 11 am. Followed by a Private burial service at Whitsiackington Church. Donations to Veteran Speedway Riders Association and Formula 2 Stock Car Drivers Benevolent Fund c/o Whites, Tel: 01823 272183.

RICKARD - Josephine (née Selle) died peacefully on Monday September 22nd after a progressive illness. Much loved wife of Jonathan, mother of Alex and George, daughter of Betty and the late Joe and sister of Susan. A Service of Thanksgiving for family and friends at Christchurch, Clifton, Bristol, on Thursday September 25th at 2.30 pm followed by a private cremation. No flowers. Donations if desired to St Peter's Hospice, St Agnes Avenue, Bristol.

RADELL - Doris Mary (née Waters) aged 89 years. Peacefully in Salisbury District Hospital on 22nd September 1997. Dearest wife of the late Christopher Radell. Much loved mother of Michael and Ann, a devoted Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Funeral Service at St Mary and St Melor Church, Amesbury on Wednesday 1st October 1997 at 2.30pm. Family flowers only but donations, if desired to St Mary and St Melor Church, Amesbury c/o Will Case & Partners, 22 Churchfields Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7NH. Tel: 01722 414621.

SIBBONS - Marcelle Dorothy silhouette artist died suddenly on 19th September 1997 while working. She has left a hole in so many lives that she touched. The funeral and celebration of her love of life is to be held beside the river at The Two Bridges Hotel, Princetown, at 10.30 am on Monday September 29th 1997. No flowers. All donations to the R.N.L.I. or plant a tree or some wild flowers, to Morris Bros., 1 Drake Road, Tavistock, Devon PL19 0AH. Tel: 01822 612023.

SINCLAIR - On September 23rd 1997, Lady Alison, aged 86 years after a severe stroke, formerly of Kensington, Oxford and College Secretary at Pembroke College (1953-71), younger sister of the late 19th Earl of Caithness - a special and greatly loved sister and aunt to her extensive family. Funeral Service at the Oxford Crematorium, Bayswater Road on September 29th at 3.30 pm. No flowers, but letters and donations may be sent to the Virus Network, P.O. Box 533, Oxford, OX1 4YP for the relief of unmet pathlegal youth and street children worldwide.

STUART-ROSS - Phyllis Newton, pre-deceased by her husband Stuart and her niece Gillian De-Russ. Sadly missed by her sister Eileen De-Russ in Vancouver and all her friends and relatives.

SURRIDGE - On September 23rd Frances aged 86. Formerly of Queen Margaret's School, Escrick Park, York and latterly residing at London W4. Much loved mother of Maguerite and grandmother of Leonnie and Alice. Funeral Service at 'Our Lady of Grace and St Edward' Chiswick High Road, London W4 on September 29th at 12.30 followed by private cremation. All enquiries to W.S. Bond, Funeral Directors, 127 High Road, Chiswick W4 2ED. Tel: 0181 994 0277.

TAYLOR - Joy died peacefully September 19th. Wife of Norman Taylor (dec'd). Funeral Service Saturday September 27th at St Nicholas Church, Manor Park Road, Chislehurst at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations to R.N.L.I. c/o Francis Chappell & Son, 48 High Street, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 6ER, (0181) 300-4661.

THACKER - On September 21st Kathleen Margaret "Kay" (née Roche) aged 86, widow of David, much loved mother of Lydia and late Charles, grandmother of Kit and Michael. Funeral at Chiselborough Church, Wednesday October 1st at 2.15 pm. Family flowers. Donations to Sue Ryder Foundation c/o Scoditley & Son Funeral Directors, Crewkerne, Somerset, (01460) 73229.

WHEADON - Rick. On 24th September. Darling husband and best friend to Jane, beloved father and step-father of Dom, Matt, Luke, Sam, Joe, Daniel, Matthew and Henry and dearest brother of Sophie. Brave to the end. Funeral arrangements later.

WHITE - Christine Mary Isobel died unexpectedly but peacefully at home on 18th September 1997, wife of the late Geoffrey Charles White, Chief Constable of Kent, loving and loved mother of Alice and Jeremy and grandmother of Edward, James, Annabel, Andrew and Philip. Funeral will take place at 2.20 pm on Monday 29th September at Salisbury Crematorium. Further details to D.K. Shergold Funeral Directors of Salisbury (01722) 328966 but family flowers only.

WOOD - On 23rd September Barbara, widow of Norman, mother of Andrew and Christopher, granny of Felicity, Henry, Edward and Nicola. Peacefully at White Ladies with her family, as she would of wished, after an illness borne with great strength. At Barbara's request there will be a private family cremation. All will be welcome at a Service of Remembrance to be held at St Clements Church, Horsley, at 3.30 pm on Monday 29th September 1997. Flowers to Joseph Allen & Sons, Field Lane, Belper, tel: 01773 827049 by 10 am Monday 29th September or donations in lieu to the same address.

WOODS - Bryan Hamersley, Major, MBE (MIL) aged 76 years. Formerly of The East Lancashire Regt. (30th and 59th of Foot) and The Parachute Regt. (3rd Bn), retired 1959. Sometime Assistant Clerk of the Goldsmiths' Company and Clerk to the Trustees of the City Parochial Foundation and of the Chelsea Physic Garden. Beloved and adoring husband of Anita, loving and proud father of Simon and Timothy and grandfather to Katie, Alexander and Phoebe. Died on September 22nd 1997. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Black Lion Lane, W6 on Monday 29th September at 10 am followed by cremation at Mortlake Crematorium. Family flowers only.

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COMBAT STRESS

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR GEOFFREY BANTOCK

Geoffrey Bantock, Professor of Education at Leicester University, 1964-75, died on September 1 aged 82. He was born on October 12, 1914.



Since 1969, education policies have shifted dramatically away from progressivism and back towards traditional teaching. Geoffrey Bantock played a considerable part in this transformation, particularly through his outspoken contributions to the controversial Black Papers.

A quiet unassuming man, he never withdrew from educational battles, even though he was often hurt by abuse from his opponents. His formidable intelligence and wonderful, clear style exposed confusions in progressive thinking, some of which remain unresolved to this day.

Geoffrey Herman Bantock was educated at Wallasey Grammar School and Emmanuel College at Cambridge, where his love of literature was nurtured by the teachings of F. R. Leavis. After graduation he taught in boys' grammar schools at Ealing and Ilford before his appointment in 1946 to a lectureship in English in Leeds.

In 1950 he moved to University College, Leicester, soon to become a university, where he was Professor of Education from 1964 to 1975. As a young man he published in Leavis's *Scrutiny*, and wrote fine critical pieces about D. H. Lawrence and T. S. Eliot, both of whom were important influences on his educational thinking. He believed that the study of great literature can hugely benefit the development of the emotional life.

His devastating criticisms of progressive education appeared as early as 1952, long before the public and politicians realised that a revolution was taking place in primary schools. In *Freedom and Authority in Education*, published that year, he exposed what he saw as the sloppiness of contemporary educational thinking.

In the period after 1945, most professors of education had been appointed for their teaching or administrative skills, not for their understanding of the philosophy of education. Bantock made himself unpopular by pointing out that the staff of education departments had usually not had specialist training in relevant fields, and lacked professional discipline.

He felt that lecturers in education were easily seduced by Rousseau's belief in the innate goodness of children, and by the doctrine that they should find things out for themselves without formal instruction. In a series of books through the 1950s and 1960s, Bantock acknowledged the value of play and discovery, but argued for disciplined learning and the authority of the teacher.

He showed that progressives were imposing freedom on children who, on the contrary, had a natural desire and need for order and security. The progressive ideology, he argued, is implicitly authoritarian: Rousseau himself had written that the child should only do what he wants to do, "but he should only want to do what you want him to do".

Bantock insisted that we achieve true freedom as adults only if we have been subjected to some form of rigour, particularly rational disciplines of study in the classroom. The child cannot harness his own resources alone, but needs first to master some of society's accumulated wisdom.

Until the 1970s Bantock's arguments went unheeded by the leaders of the teaching profession, and he was treated as an eccentric and even a pariah. Then his brilliant essay on "discovery methods" in the second of the Black Papers (1969) made a breakthrough. It was read by thousands of conservative teachers, who were given the courage to speak out for formal discipline. His writings helped to produce a shift of opinion, which culminated in James Callaghan's famous Ruskin College speech of 1976, when the Labour Prime Minister advocated a return to basics.

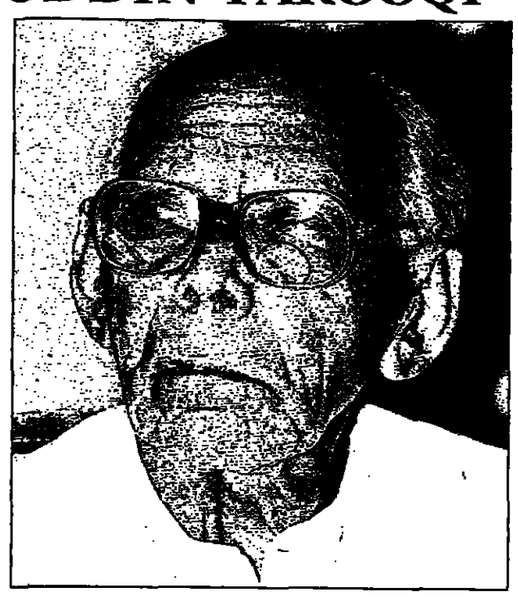
Bantock believed that progressives are committed to contradictory sets of values. They believe in the importance of the individual, which should mean wanting each child to advance as far as he or she can. But they also believe in equality, leading to collectivism, uniformity and a resistance to streaming. Bantock's position was clear: by the age of 13 children's abilities differ markedly, so they need different paces of teaching and different subject matter.

Bantock's students found him an excellent teacher, who expected high standards. Influenced by writers such as Lawrence and George Sturt, he advocated a curriculum that stimulates creativity in all the arts. After retirement from Leicester he published an impressive two-volume history of educational theory.

He is survived by his wife, Jean, who had been one of his students in Leeds before they married in 1950.

MUQIMUDDIN FAROOQI

Muqimuddin Farooqi, Secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India, died on September 3, aged 77. He was born in Ambetha, Uttar Pradesh in 1920.



MUQIMUDDIN FAROOQI was one of the most modest and austere leaders of the Indian Communist movement. In a country where the political culture abhors ostentation and visible affluence, most politicians have different public and private personas. Farooqi, however, had only one. His personal life was inseparable from his politics, and marked by the same intense simplicity. The single room near the Jama Masjid in Old Delhi where he lived for four decades was open to all, and people thronged there for political discussions or for help.

As a student at St Stephen's College in Delhi University, Farooqi was drawn into the freedom struggle. In 1938, he joined the Communist Party, although at the time the Communists were working within the Congress Party. In December 1939 he helped to organise an anti-war rally, at which he spoke alongside Subhash Chandra Bose, the controversial Congress leader who subsequently sided with Germany and Japan in the hope that they would help India to win freedom. Farooqi, however, firmly opposed the Axis powers, especially after Hitler invaded Russia in 1941.

In 1940 he was elected head of the All India Students' Federation, the Communist-led student front. (An affiliate of the federation, the Punjab Students' Union, had as its secretary at the time one Inder Kumar Gujral, who is now Prime Minister of India.) That year, Farooqi organised a strike at Delhi University to protest the arrest of Jawaharlal Nehru. This was the first time any such agitation had occurred in the university, and Sir Maurice Gwyer, the then vice-chancellor, took a dim view. Farooqi was expelled and stripped of his Master's degree. Only 49 years later, at the urging of Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma, then the President of India, did the university renew his degree.

After Independence, Farooqi became active in Delhi's trade union movement. He was a popular figure in the capital and rose swiftly through the party's ranks. After the death of Stalin, when the Soviet Union advocated a "peaceful transition to socialism", the Indian Communists drew close to the Congress. The party split in 1964, ostensibly mirroring the Sino-Soviet split in the world communist movement. Farooqi remained loyal to the Soviet — and less radical — faction. The Communists' proximity to the Congress finally led them to support Indira Gandhi when she imposed a State of Emergency in 1975. Farooqi, along with the rest of his comrades, later acknowledged that this had been a serious error of judgment.

In recent years, Farooqi had been a leading advocate of Communist participation in "the Third Front" — the loose political coalition currently in power in Delhi — and felt that this was the only way the Congress and the rightist Bharatiya Janata Party could be kept out of power. Ironically, he died minutes after speaking at a seminar on coalition governance.

In its obituary, *The Times of India* called Farooqi "a representative of another era", and said that "amidst the rapid degeneration of ideals in politics, Farooqi clung to the values of the freedom struggle". When an interviewer asked him recently whether his dreams of August 1947 had come to fruition, Farooqi expressed dismay at the persistence of illiteracy, unemployment and poverty, fifty years after Independence. But he refused to be pessimistic. "I am confident that the younger generation will revolt and set things right," he said.

Muqimuddin Farooqi is survived by his wife, the Communist leader Vimla Farooqi, and a son.

REAR-ADMIRAL DAVID DUNBAR-NASMITH

Rear-Admiral David Dunbar-Nasmith, CB, DSC, Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland 1970-72, died on September 15 aged 76. He was born on February 21, 1921.



GRADUATION from Dartmouth Naval College was a proud start to David Dunbar-Nasmith's distinguished career in the service and in public life. As chief cadet captain, he was awarded the King's Dirk as the best cadet in his term by his father, Admiral Sir Martin Dunbar-Nasmith, the then Flag Officer Plymouth and a famous submariner whose Victoria Cross had been awarded for his submerged penetrations of the Sea of Marmora during the Dardanelles campaign of the First World War.

Going to sea as a midshipman shortly before the outbreak of war in 1939, the young Dunbar-Nasmith served in the battleships *Barham* and *Rodney* before joining the destroyer *Kelvin*, as Navigation Officer. *Kelvin* was in the thick of the desperate campaign to evacuate allied forces from Crete in April and May 1941. The Royal Navy suffered many casualties. Four of the squadron's destroyers were sunk, and *Kelvin* was badly damaged.

Dunbar-Nasmith was mentioned in dispatches for his services in March 1942 during the Second Battle of Sirte, when a Malta convoy was protected from greatly superior Italian forces by smoke and diversionary tactics.

In November 1942 Dunbar-Nasmith was appointed second-in-command of the destroyer *Petard* and the following month the ship accepted the surrender of an Italian submarine off Port Said. Dunbar-Nasmith led the boarding party which recovered important code material, for which he was awarded the DSC. This was a courageous act; a month earlier, when the *Petard* had successfully recovered German code material from the surfaced but sinking *U559*, his predecessor had been killed.

Dunbar-Nasmith was mentioned in dispatches again in September 1943 for his services during the campaign after the Italian surrender which was designed to open a front in the Aegean. No fewer than eight British destroyers were sunk or damaged in attempts to reinforce and hold some of the Greek islands, but complete German air superiority proved insurmountable.

Promoted to acting lieutenant-commander, Dunbar-Nasmith had a long series of commands. While commanding the minesweeper *Rowena*, he was awarded a third mention in dispatches for his role in the boarding of the merchant ship *Ulva* in February 1947, during the Palestine patrol.

After passing the naval staff course in 1949, he was appointed operations officer to the Flag Officer Commanding the First Cruiser Squadron in the Mediterranean fleet at Malta. This post was held by Rear-Admiral Earl Mountbatten, who had returned to a more modest role after his time as Viceroy of India and Supreme Allied Commander South-East Asia. The operations officer was kept busy, but also encouraged to pursue his enthusiasms for polo and yachting.

His next command was the frigate *Enard Bay* in Scotland, where he was engaged in the training of boy seamen. Becoming commander in 1951, he served until 1954 on the staff of the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic during a period of evolution for Nato's early maritime strategy.

After promotion to captain in 1958, he commanded the frigate *Berwick* and the Fifth Frigate Squadron, his ship at that time being recognised by exercise analysts as perhaps the most efficient anti-submarine vessel in the Navy.

There followed three years as Director of Defence Plans (Navy) at the Ministry of Defence, a central staff appointment reporting again to Mountbatten, who was seeing through his reforms during an unusual second tour as Chief of Defence Staff.

After a year as Commodore Amphibious Forces, Dunbar-Nasmith was promoted to rear-admiral in 1967. As Naval Secretary he was responsible for the personnel management of the naval officer corps, showing much wisdom in his matching of appointments to people and in the career planning of rising stars.

He was appointed a CB in 1970, and spent his final tour, appropriately enough for a member of an ancient Scottish family, as Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Retiring to Rothes in Morayshire, Dunbar-Nasmith became involved in a host of regional activities. He was vice-chairman of the Highlands and Islands Development Board from 1972 and its chairman in 1981-82. He was also a member of the Countryside Commission for Scotland, 1972-76, the British Waterways Board, 1980-87, and the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board.

His chairmanship of the directors of the Moray and Nairn Newspaper Company, 1982-91 covered the period of a take-over by the Scottish Provincial Press, and Dunbar-Nasmith is affectionately remembered for his stout protection of the workforce and of shareholders' interests. As Vice Lord-Lieutenant for Morayshire from 1980, he was widely admired as a quietly spoken and charming gentleman, who was enormously effective in promoting the interests of the countryside and the local fishing industry.

He was appointed a member of the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland — the Royal Company of Archers — in 1974, and was Gentleman Usher of the Green Rod to the Order of the Thistle until 1996.

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth and by their two sons and two daughters.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a general meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company will be held at 5 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA on 8 October 1997 at 1400 hrs for the purposes of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Administrative Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented.
Please note that a creditor is entitled to vote only if he has delivered to the Administrative Receivers at 5000 Story Heyward, 5 Baker Street, London, W1M 1DA, not later than 1200 hrs on 7 October 1997 details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of Rule 2.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 and (b) there has been lodged with us any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
Dated 22nd September 1997
Peter A Lawrence, Joint Administrative Receiver.

Rockingham Garden & Leisure Centres Limited
In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation
THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986 Rule 11.2(1A)
A first dividend is intended to be declared in the above matter. All creditors who have not proved their debts must submit their claims to me at 3000 Story Harrington Road, Mr Richmond Bridge, Middlesex TW1 2EA quoting reference MAL/SLH by Friday 24 October 1997. Please note that if you do not prove your claim by Friday 24 October 1997 you will be excluded from this dividend which is to be declared within 4 months from the last date for proving. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.
Dated 18 September 1997
A P Suppestone, Liquidator

No 1A of 1997
In the High Court of Justice
IN THE MATTER OF
MSC Packaging Limited
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
Registered number 1140494
Nature of Business
Manufacturers of Printed Packaging Materials
Trade Classification 10
Date of Administration Order made: 12th September 1997
Peter A Lawrence and David A Ralph
Joint administrators (office holder no(s) 6829 and 5930

No 004523 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF M&G EQUITY INVESTMENT TRUST P.L.C.
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 10 September 1997 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share premium account of the above-named Company amounting to £70,000,000 and the reduction of the capital of the said Company from £38,907,500 to £38,850,000.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 8th day of October 1997.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share premium account and shares supplied should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated the 23rd day of September 1997.
LINKLATERS & PAINES (DTL)
Barrington House
59-67 Gresham Street
London EC2V 7JA
Solicitors for the above-named Company

NOTICE OF INTENDED DIVIDEND
In the matter of the INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
and in the matter of
KENTISH CROWN INVESTMENTS LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is my intention to declare a first and final dividend to unsecured non-preferential creditors of the above-named company no later than 1 February 1997. Creditors who have not yet done so are required, on or before 1 November 1997, to send their proofs of debt to the undersigned, R A Powdrill of Deloitte & Touche, Stonecutter Court, 1 Stonecutter Street, London EC4A 3TR, the Liquidator of the company and, if so requested, to provide such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to the Liquidator to be necessary. A creditor who has not proved his debt by the date specified will be excluded from the dividend.
R A Powdrill
19 September 1997

PIXEL TECHNOLOGY LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above Company will be at 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF on 30 September 1997 at 10.30am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proofs, together with a full statement to the offices of Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF not later than 12 noon on 29 September 1997. For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge before the meeting a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed. Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF between 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above. Resolutions to be taken at the meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated, and the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.
By Order of the Board.
Salim Giga, Director.

Regencies Limited
The Insolvency Act and Rules 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, I, E J Wacey of Butcher Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF, give notice that on 15 August 1997 I was appointed Liquidator of Regencies Limited by resolutions of members and creditors.
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required on or before 15 October 1997 to send in their full names, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned E J Wacey of 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF. The Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.
Dated: 15 September 1997
E J Wacey, Liquidator

No. 004224 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF MIDIS GROUP PLC
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 17th September 1997 confirming the reduction of the share premium account of the above-named company by £101,245,675 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 19th September 1997
Dated the 25th day of September 1997.
LINKLATERS & PAINES (DTL)
Barrington House
59-67 Gresham Street
London EC2V 7JA
Solicitors for the above-named Company

PUBLIC NOTICES

DMJ PLC (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of DMJ plc is to be held at the White Rose Room, Queen's Hotel, City Square, Leeds on 9 October 1997 at 10.00 am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors who have not received notice of the of the meeting and who wish to attend should contact the receivers' office (telephone number 0113 244 2044) and ask for Paul Seddon.
Any creditors requiring a copy of the report (which is available free of charge) subsequently to the meeting should write to Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds, LS1 2SN.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting. A person is not entitled to vote at the meeting unless he has given details of his claim in writing to the joint administrative receiver no later than 12.00 am on 8 October 1997, his claim has been admitted to vote and he has lodged any proxy which he intends to be used on his behalf.
R Mann
Joint Administrative Receiver
17 September 1997

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171-680 6878

OR

FAX: 0171 481 9313

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

THREE BALLOONS LOST.

FIVE DEATHS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BRUSSELS, SEPT. 24.

The balloon race for the Gordon Bennett Cup has resulted, up to the time of writing, in the deaths of five of the aeronauts.

The destruction of a Spanish and a Swiss balloon, with the deaths of three pilots, has already been reported. This morning news reached Brussels that the American balloon U.S. Army S.8 was overtaken by the storm and was struck by lightning. The burning balloon crashed to earth at Nistelrode (in the north of Dutch Brabant). The pilot, Lieutenant Olmstead, and the assistant pilot, Lieutenant Choplaw, were killed instantly, their bodies being burned to ashes.

The American balloon U.S. Navy 6,690, piloted by Lieutenant Lawrence, with M. Reichelferder as passenger, came down at 8.30 p.m. on Sunday at Putten, in the Gelderland, to the south of the Zuyder Zee (Holland). A landing was made without incident in a south wind. The Swiss aeronaut A. Picard and the assistant pilot Stobel, of Zurich, landed at 7 p.m. on Sunday evening six miles from Eersel (Holland). The whole of the ballast had been thrown overboard.

The balloon Fernande II, piloted by the Frenchman G. Blanchet, was compelled to land last night at Lille-St.-Pierre, near Antwerp.

Gomez, the pilot of the Spanish balloon Polar, who had a marvellous escape from death when his balloon was struck by lightning on Sunday evening, has made the following statement in regard to the disaster:-

We left about 4.30 p.m. The wind was very violent, and over Malines the sky darkened and rain fell heavily, developing into a storm. We decided to descend. Everything went well; we were about three hundred feet from the ground and a peasant caught hold of our guiding rope, but he was alone and had to let go. What occurred then I hardly know; but in consequence of the rain the sand had solidified in our bags, and, instead of trickling out gradually, it fell in lumps, causing the balloon to rise suddenly. In an instant we were back at an altitude of 3,700 ft. It was then that the terrible disaster occurred. A flash of lightning, a clap of thunder, and over my head I saw the balloon in flames. At the same instant my comrade collapsed in a corner of the basket. I thought he had fainted, and had no thought of death. The flames extinguished themselves quickly, and I saw the balloon descending rapidly, but the speed slowed down, the *debris* of the envelope forming a parachute. We had then just been struck by the lightning. The fall of the basket was violent, and I felt an appalling pain in my legs, but did not lose consciousness. Some peasants came to my help. . . .

The Spanish assistant pilot, who was killed, was married and the father of five children.

It is being asked in Brussels sporting circles why the start of the race was not postponed in spite of the regulations.

The Spanish balloon J. F. Douro, piloted by the Spaniard Magdelena, descended near Eindhoven, in Holland. A dispatch from Amsterdam announces that the English aeronaut, Lieutenant-Colonel John Dunville, piloting the Banshee III, has descended at Hertee, in Holland. . . .

ON THIS DAY

September 25, 1923

The balloon race had been promoted by the American journalist James Gordon Bennett (1841-1918). The balloons were filled with highly flammable hydrogen, unlike those of today which carry propane air heaters.

NEWS

$1.2 million price for nurse's life

■ The brother of an Australian nurse stabbed to death in Saudi Arabia is demanding $1.2 million "blood money" to spare the life of the British nurse accused of murdering her.

Salah al-Hejailan, a Saudi lawyer representing the Britons, said Frank Gilford had demanded that the two give $500,000 (nearly £300,000) to a children's hospital and pay him the rest. He described the sum as extortionate, but said the two Britons had agreed to the deal ..... Pages 1, 3, 20

'No national wage for under-25s'

■ The Government is considering exempting young people, possibly up to the age of 25, from the national minimum wage. The move will delight business and alarm the unions. But ministers are insisting that the full economic impact of a minimum wage must be taken into account ..... Page 1

Ashdown's gamble

In a bold address, Paddy Ashdown told the Lib-Dems to reap the reward of closer co-operation with Labour rather than sit on the sidelines ..... Pages 1, 12, 21

Ulster 'breakthrough'

Northern Ireland's parties were close to the breakthrough required for full peace talks after the Ulster Unionist Party dropped its demand for guaranteed IRA disarmament ..... Page 1

Tough press code

Dramatic changes to the Press Complaints Commission's privacy code to provide extra protection for children and end harassment by photographers are to be announced today ..... Page 2

Prince's project

The Prince of Wales will tomorrow launch an ambitious project to save some of Britain's largest and grandest historic buildings from decay ..... Page 4

Ethical guidance

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health outlined five cases in which doctors should consider stopping medical treatment from children ..... Page 6

Surgeon accused

John Studd, a leading Harley Street gynaecologist, was accused of "playing God" after he admitted removing a 35-year-old woman's ovaries without her consent ..... Page 3

Male factor

Older men who marry younger wives in the hope of producing a male heir have a good chance of success, according to a study of birth records ..... Page 11

Welfare partners

The Government is seeking to involve mutual societies in its reform of the welfare state by providing pensions and long-term care ..... Page 4

Haze exodus

Britain may evacuate its diplomatic families if the haze blanketing Malaysia gets worse. The American and Canadian embassies have begun evacuating families ..... Page 14

Widow's grief

Indian police prevented a young widow from committing suttee in Rajasthan. To her, it was the ultimate gesture of love, but to police the act is a crime .. Page 15

ANC's dilemma

Winnie Mandela's decision to contest the No.2 post in the ANC worries party managers. But the immediate political fallout could result from her appearance before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission ..... Page 16

Protectors to stay

The White House has signalled that America must be ready to keep troops in Bosnia beyond June, setting the stage for a battle with Congress ..... Page 17

True bulldog breed reborn

■ The canine establishment has scorned an attempt to restore the bulldog, emblem of all that is great about Britain, to its former glory. Breeder Ken Mollett wants to take the dog back to its Victorian stature, but the Kennel Club, which views change with alarm, says people want couch-potato dogs to go with their couch-potato lives ..... Page 1

GABRIEL BOUYS / AP



French photographers refuse to take pictures of Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, and Marie-Georges Buffet, Sports Minister, after a Cabinet meeting. They were protesting at the inquiry into their colleagues over the fatal car crash of Diana, Princess of Wales. Page 17

BUSINESS

Bank deal: Travelers, the American insurance and brokerage giant, has made an agreed £5.5 billion bid for Salomon Inc, the American investment bank ..... Page 25

McDonalds: The fast-food giant is planning to convert 1.6 million students to the delights of the Big Mac by offering extra hamburgers free with their meals ..... Page 25

Diet food: Scotia, which tries to develop drugs from naturally occurring fats, is working on a yoghurt that can fool weight-conscious consumers they are feeling full ..... Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 49.7 points to 5077.2. Sterling fell from 101.4 to 100.3 after a fall from $1.6127 to $1.6124 and from DM2.8948 to DM2.8565 ... Page 28

SPORT

Football: Second division Fulham club are hoping to announce that Kevin Keegan, out of the game since January, will join them on a part-time basis ..... Page 48

Golf: Miguel Angel Martin's Ryder Cup career began and ended with a stage-managed show of solidarity that did little to soothe the troubled waters of Valderrama ..... Page 48

Rugby union: Clive Woodward, England's new coach, will not hesitate to make changes before the November internationals against New Zealand twice, Australia and South Africa ..... Page 42

Olympic Games: None of Britain's Olympic competitors have yet received Lottery funding to prepare for the winter Games in Nagano next February ..... Page 48

ARTS

Rich pickings: At a teeming Toronto Film Festival Geoff Brown stands in line to watch money fly as the big distributors fight over the young prizewinners ..... Page 34

New movies: After a stream of sci-fi silliness on the big screen, it comes as quite a shock to watch *Contact*, Robert Zemeckis's intelligent exploration of space ..... Page 35

Out of the blue: The two short plays titled *Blue Heart* arrive in London from Edinburgh to confirm Caryl Churchill as our most inventive, unpredictable current dramatist ..... Page 36

Roll over: David Sinclair is in Chicago to see the Rolling Stones launch their new world tour, and finds their delinquent energy flowing as creatively as ever .... Page 37

FEATURES

Control: Dr Thomas Stuttaford on controlling depression; why Thalidomide is still prescribed; cerebral tumours and changes in behaviour; genes for jeans day and the risk of breast cancer .... Page 18

Faster, faster: The fastest man on earth, Richard Noble, is also masterminding the project to break his own land speed record. Anjana Ahuja reports ..... Page 19

FOCUS

Relocation: How the United Kingdom is becoming a magnet for companies wanting a manufacturing base in Europe ..... Pages 30, 31

BOOKS

Tory future: Michael Portillo on the future of the Conservative Party; Malcolm Bradbury on Kurt Vonnegut's last work ..... Pages 38, 39

TRAVEL NEWS

Car menu: Guests at a hotel in the Cotswold village of Broadway will soon be able to request an extra menu — for cars. They will have a choice of classic and Edwardian cars ..... Page 41

THE PAPERS

The repulsive events of recent days [in Algeria] could well mean that President Zeroual has been forced to give way to the military oligarchy

— Le Soir, Brussels



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ THEATRE
Tom Stoppard talks about his new play at the National

■ EDUCATION
An independent education special on fee planning and the advantages of mixed schools

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Warren Clarke plays a man on the revenge trail. *The Locksmith* (BBC1, 9.30pm) **Review:** Joe Joseph finds Robbie Coltrane all at sea ..... Pages 46, 47

OPINION

Crime and punishment

Mr Cook's intemperate remarks denouncing the sentence of 500 lashes as "wholly unacceptable" raise a serious obstacle in the urgent diplomatic attempts to mitigate the sentence ..... Page 21

Purity and power

If Liberal activists are unwilling to enter into that realignment, then they may as well lay to rest any ambition to change more than the site of their local pelican crossing ..... Page 21

Man on the moon

The White Goddess of romance and myth, the controversially feminine principle receiving its light from the Sun, is too old a wonder to be explained away by computer simulation ..... Page 21

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG
Clinton expresses the sentiments one might find on a condolence card. He is a sentimentalist of genius, a Southern, honey-smoked, ham ..... Page 20

M PINTO-DUSCHINSKY
Lib-Dem politicians are relishing the imminent prospect of PR, which would mean that instead of being permanently excluded from power, they might find themselves permanently in office ..... Page 20

JOHN BRYANT
One of the great social values of sport was that it kept kids off the streets. But try telling that to cyclist Tony Adams ..... Page 46

OBITUARIES

Professor Geoffrey Bantock, educationist; **Rear-Admiral David Dunbar-Nasmith**; **Muqimuddin Farooqi**, Communist ..... Page 23

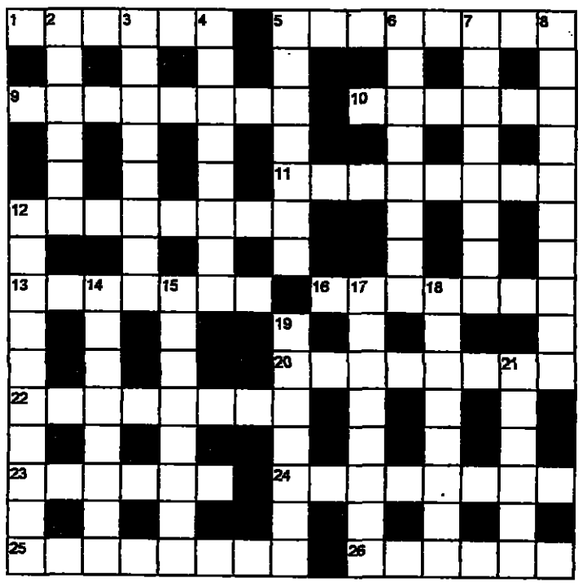
LETTERS

Pensions mis-selling; Opposition view on referendum for London; Lord Russell on Lib Dem/Labour co-operation; right stuff for military leadership ..... Page 21

LOTTERY NUMBERS

12, 14, 29, 31, 32, 44. Bonus 46
Jackpot was £14.1 million

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,594



ACROSS

1 A difficult walk I had, that's clear (6).
5 Something used in the lists by many a knight (8).
9 Girl friend embraces you finally – at regular intervals (8).
10 During match turn over a new leaf and tread very carefully (6).
11 Well fitted to reform idolater (8).
12 New books, after ten years, deteriorating (8).
13 Boy meeting maiden – all for nothing, perhaps? (7).
16 Invention produced by US agents in sudden burst of activity (7).
20 Jumper has to go to side of track (8).
22 They have a belief that's strange – saintism (8).
23 Lizard – one relocated in South American region (6).
24 After entry of snake, went ahead and ran (8).
25 Nerve centre of criminal organisation discovered by hero (8).
26 Something of a whippersnapper, a scallywag (6).

DOWN

2 Take no notice of developing region (6).
3 Plant tree with land round (8).
4 Consignment of French uniform (8).
5 Still wearing former outfit, the first one had (7).
6 Find most of country's heath frighteningly cold (8).
7 Learned to repeat first line (8).
8 At sea, weed two tars used to keep afloat (5,5).
12 Event for cars setting off up a road originally (4-6).
14 Without saying much, whip up island to revolution (8).
15 Race in public (8).
17 I blacken Dominican, for instance (8).
18 Convert so solemn and dark (8).
19 First of 21 old records I left on (7).
21 I have found so-called stockade (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20.593

LAMBADA IMPEACH
I A L B F E G A
BYNOMEANS STAIR
Y G A N T I D
AXIOM DESMOINES
N E A O M S E
BRITANNIAMETAL
R E S T E L
UNDERTHEHAMMER
N O I E O N F
NEWSPAPER INCUR
E A U E R L I
RIGUP AMERICANA
U E A M N S V R
PARSLEY SATIETY

Times Two Crossword, page 48

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather- All regions	0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions	0336 401 400
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Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax

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Wales	416 232	London	416 242
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N West	416 238		
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European fuel costs	0336 401 886
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Disneyland Paris	0336 401 409
Le Shuttle	0336 401 895

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new and used car reports from the AA menu of 195 cars 0336 416 399

Dial from your fax handset, you may have to set to poll receive mode

Automobile Association Developments Ltd, Norfolk House Priestley Road Basingstoke RG24 9NY

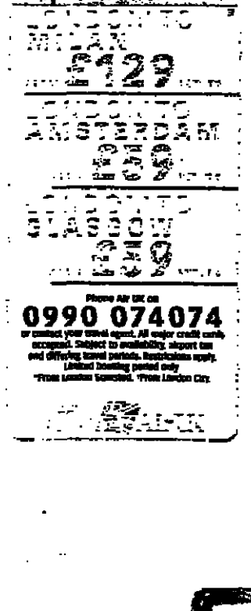
Calls are charged at 50p per minute at all times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.51 am — Sun sets: 6.52 pm
Moon sets 4.01 pm — Moon rises 12.29 am

New moon October 1
London 6.52 pm to 6.53 am
Bristol 7.02 pm to 7.03 am
Edinburgh 7.04 pm to 7.06 am
Manchester 7.00 pm to 7.02 am
Penzance 7.14 pm to 7.14 am

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996



FORECAST

☐ **General:** mainly dry, perhaps a few spots of rain near the northeast and east coast of England. Sunny spells in most areas once any mist or fog has cleared.
Tonight: mostly cloudy across northeast England, with light rain possible. Elsewhere dry with long clear spells.
☐ **London, SE England, E Midlands, Central N England:** dry, sunny spells. Light easterly wind. Max 21C (70F).
☐ **Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England:** long sunny spells. Moderate easterly wind. Max 21C (70F).
☐ **E Anglia, E England, NE England:** rain or drizzle possible, especially near the coast. Sunny spells developing. Max 19C (66F).
☐ **W Midlands, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** fog patches at dawn soon clearing, then long sunny periods. Light east to southeast breeze. Max 21C (70F).
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll:** cold at first with fog patches, mostly sunny later. Light southerly breeze. Max 20C (68F).
☐ **NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland:** sunny spells, becoming cloudier. Moderate south to southwest breeze. Max 18C (64F).
☐ **Outlook:** cloudier.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; da=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail, r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

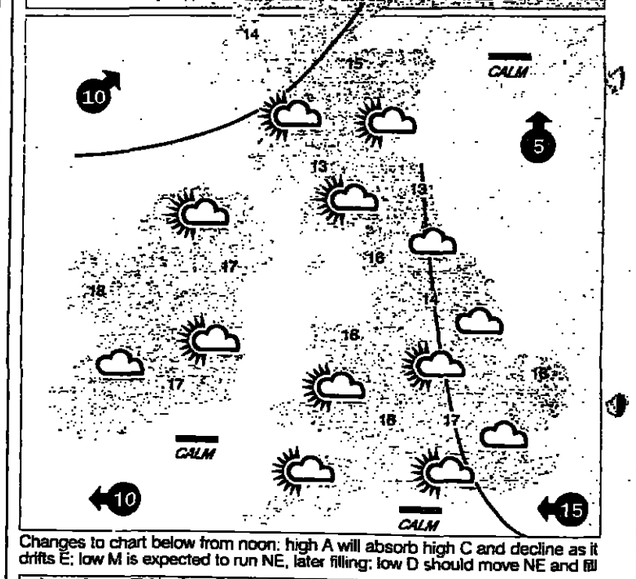
	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	8.0	-	18	64	s	Kinloss	9.2	-	19	66	s
Anglesey	10.5	-	18	64	s	Leeds	7.6	-	19	66	s
Aspatria	10.4	-	18	64	s	Lerwick	10.2	-	16	61	s
Aviemore	8.3	-	21	70	s	Leuchars	6.1	-	15	59	sg
Belfast	9.8	-	18	64	s	London	5.4	-	19	66	s
Birmingham	6.1	-	19	66	b	Lowestoft	0.1	0.01	17	63	c
Bognor R	10.1	-	21	70	s	Manchester	10.3	-	19	66	s
Bournem'th	8.3	-	21	70	s	Margate	3.8	-	19	66	c
Bristol	6.3	-	20	68	s	Minehead	6.9	-	19	66	s
Buxton	8.0	-	16	61	c	Morecambe	9.3	-	20	68	s
Cardiff	7.5	-	18	64	b	Newcastle	9.3	-	18	64	s
Clacton	4.2	-	17	63	c	Newquay	9.9	-	20	68	s
Cromer	0.6	0.01	15	59	c	Norwich	0.3	-	17	63	c
Dunbar	8.1	-	17	63	s	Oxford	5.9	-	19	66	c
Edinburgh	9.3	-	17	63	s	Penzance	x	-	19	66	s
Eskdalemuir	9.0	-	18	64	s	Poole	8.3	-	20	68	s
Exmouth	9.2	-	17	63	s	Ross-o-wye	4.1	-	18	64	b
Falmouth	6.6	-	17	63	s	Scilcombe	8.5	-	17	63	s
Fishguard	10.7	-	19	66	s	Saumin Snd	8.6	-	21	70	s
Folkestone	8.1	-	18	64	s	Scarboro'	7.1	-	15	59	s
Glasgow	7.4	-	20	68	s	Shegness	3.6	-	18	61	c
Guernsey	9.2	-	21	70	s	Southend	6.9	-	19	66	c
Hastings	9.3	-	19	66	s	Southport	9.5	-	19	66	s
Hayling I.	10.3	-	19	66	s	Southsea	9.7	-	19	66	s
Herne Bay	2.7	-	19	66	du	Stornoway	10.0	-	17	63	s
Hove	4.2	-	19	66	b	Swanage	7.1	-	18	64	s
Hunstanton	1.5	-	19	66	c	Teignmouth	8.3	-	17	63	b
Isle-of-man	9.2	-	17	63	s	Tenby	7.9	-	17	63	s
Isle-of-wight	7.2	-	18	64	s	Torquay	6.1	-	19	66	s
Jersey	10.1	-	20	68	s	Weymouth	10.0	-	18	64	s

ABROAD

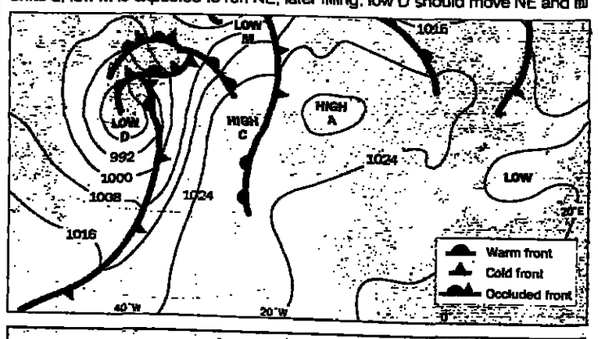
Ajaccio	25	77	s	Corfu	26	79	f	Majorca	27	81	s
Akrotiri	27	81	s	C'phagn	16	59	f	Malaga	26	79	s
Alex'dria	27	81	f	Dublin	17	63	f	Malta	27	81	s
Algiers	26	79	s	Dubrovnik	22	72	f	Melb'rne	14	57	f
Amst'dm	17	63	c	Faro	27	81	s	Mexico C	16	59	s
Athens	25	77	s	Florence	25	77	f	Miami	25	77	r
B Aires	14	57	f	Frankfurt	21	70	c	Milan	23	73	s
Bahrain	39	102	s	Funchal	25	77	c	Montreal	13	55	s
Bangkok	31	88	f	Geneva	19	66	s	Moscow	7	45	f
Barbados	28	82	r	Gibraltar	25	77	f	Munich	17	63	s
Barcelona	24	75	s	Helsinki	9	48	s	N Delhi	33	91	s
Beirut	27	81	s	Hong K	25	77	c	N York	17	63	s
Belgrade	21	70	s	Innsbruck	19	66	s	Nairobi	27	81	f
Berlin	16	61	c	Istanbul	20	68	f	Naples	20	68	f
Bermuda	26	79	f	Jeddah	35	95	s	Nice	25	77	s
Biarritz	27	81	s	Jo'burg	25	79	s	Oslo	18	64	s
Borde'x	27	81	s	L Angels	21	70	s	Paris	23	73	s
Brussels	18	64	s	L Palmas	25	77	f	Peking	25	77	s
Budapst	20	68	s	Le Tquet	20	68	s	Perth	23	73	s
Cairo	30	86	f	Lisbon	26	79	s	Prague	19	66	s
Cape Tn	19	66	f	Locarno	20	68	s	Reykjavik	11	52	d
Ch'church	10	50	X	Luxembg	21	70	s	Rhodes	24	75	s
Chicago	12	54	f	Luxor	37	99	s	Rio de J	21	70	f
Cologne	21	70	s	Madrid	24	75	f	Riyadh	38	100	s
Rome	25	77	f
S Fr'isco	14	57	s
S Paulo	X		
Salzburg	16	61	s
Santiago	12	54	c
Seoul	24	75	s
Sing'por	32	90	c
St'kholm	11	52	c
Strasb'rg	20	68	s
Sydney	13	55	f
Tangier	30	86	s
Tel Aviv	28	82	s
Tenerife	26	79	s
Tokyo	18	64	f
Toronto	13	55	f
Tunis	25	77	f
Valencia	26	79	f
Vanc'ver	12	54	s
Venice	22	72	s
Vienna	19	66	s
Warsaw	13	55	c
Wash'ton	12	54	f
Wel'ngton	11	52	X
Zurich	17	63	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: high A will absorb high C and decline as it drifts E; low M is expected to run NE, later filling; low D should move NE and fill



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	06.54	5.9	21.32	6.0	Leith	10.30	4.5	23.00	4.6
Aberdeen	09.28	3.5	21.56	3.6	Liverpool	06.44	7.4	19.24	7.4
Avonmouth	02.01	9.8	14.33	9.7	Lowestoft	04.54	2.2	18.04	2.2
Belfast	07.00	3.0	19.15	3.1	Margate	07.09	4.0	19.57	4.0
Cardiff	01.47	9.2	14.19	9.1	Milford Haven	01.21	5.2	14.03	5.2
Devonport	00.48	4.3	13.18	4.4	Newquay	00.22	5.3	13.04	5.3
Dover	06.26	5.4	19.15	5.3	Oban	02.15	2.9	15.19	3.0
Dublin (N Wall)	07.33	3.5	20.03	3.7	Penzance	-	-	12.33	4.4
Falmouth	00.19	4.1	12.49	4.2	Portland	01.29	1.3	14.08	1.3
Greenock	07.44	2.9	19.44	3.0	Portsmouth	07.18	3.9	19.45	3.8
Harwich	06.48	3.3	19.36	3.3	Shoreham	06.28	4.8	19.09	4.7
Holyhead	06.15	4.4	18.54	4.6	Southampton	06.22	3.8	18.59	3.8
Ilfracombe	01.06	6.9	13.45	6.9	Swansea	01.18	7.4	13.53	7.3
King's Lynn	01.28	5.1	14.30	5.0	Tees	11.42	4.3	-	-
					Walton-on-N	06.48	3.4	19.35	3.4

All times BST Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Altnaharra, Highland, 22C (72F); lowest day max: Tynemouth, 13C (55F); highest rainfall: no appreciable rainfall; highest sunshine: Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, 10.7hr.

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Why Keegan may be heading for Craven Cottage
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1997

Salomon falls to $9bn takeover



Peter Middleton walked away from a £50,000 bonus to run Salomon Bros

Travelers makes agreed offer for US investment bank

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

TRAVELERS GROUP, the financial services company, yesterday launched an agreed $9 billion (£5.6 billion) takeover bid for Salomon, the US investment bank.

The takeover will unite Smith Barney, Travelers' broking subsidiary, and Salomon Brothers, creating the world's fourth-largest equity underwriter and the second-largest US debt underwriter based on 1996 figures.

Salomon Smith Barney will be led by Deryck Maughan, 49, the son of a Durham miner, who spent ten years at the Treasury, and James Dimon, the Smith Barney executive chairman, as co-chief executives. After completion, Robert Denham, chairman of Salomon Inc, the holding company, will depart. In a joint statement the two groups said: "Salomon Smith Barney will be a global, full-service securities firm that combines Salomon's traditional strength in fixed-income and international presence with Smith Barney's traditional strength in equities, retail distribution, municipal finance and asset management."

Salomon will take a $500 million restructuring charge mainly for an undisclosed number of redundancies. Salomon staff in London have been reassured that their jobs are mostly safe because of Smith Barney's domestic US focus. But staff at Salomon's head office in New York were told to expect job losses after a move into Smith Barney's offices where "there won't be room for all of you". The merger is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Travelers is offering 1.13 of its shares, the equivalent of $81.43, for every Salomon share, worth $71.50 at close on Tuesday. In May, Salomon shares were trading at less than $50. Yesterday they quickly zoomed up to $79 after assessments that regulatory approval was likely.

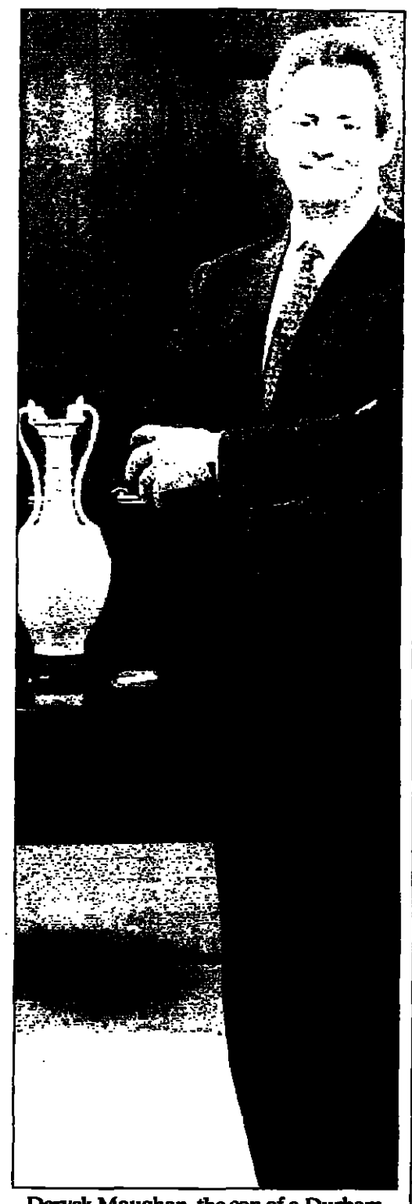
Mr Maughan said: "The times are changing and we must change with them. Of all the possible combinations we could make, this is the most attractive — from both a cultural as well as a business point of view. Salomon and Smith Barney are a natural fit. I could not be happier." Mr Dimon said: "Merging Smith Barney and Salomon Brothers accomplishes in a short time what would have taken either of us a considerable time to build."

The takeover more than fulfils Travelers' acquisition criteria. Sandford Weill, executive chairman, said: "We immediately and significantly strengthen Travelers' earnings stream and capital base while catapulting Salomon Smith Barney into the top tier of global securities and investment banks."

The deal is the latest in a series in the US financial services industry. Brokers, banks, insurers and fund managers are taking advantage of the easing of banking regulations. Analysts see the deal as a response to the merger of Morgan Stanley and Dean Witter.

Steven Cohen, of Kellner Dileo, a merger arbitrage firm, said: "Salomon is in a lot of businesses that Travelers are not in right now, such as proprietary trading and investment banking."

Commentary, page 27
Liar's poker, page 29



Deryck Maughan, the son of a Durham miner, will be the co-chief executive

Middleton makes up for lost bonus

PETER MIDDLETON walked away from a £50,000 bonus when he quit Lloyd's of London to run the European operations of Salomon Brothers. Two years on, he is laughing all the way to the bank — along with nearly 7,000 very happy Salomon employees (Jon Ashworth writes).

Salomon allows staff to buy shares in the firm at a discount, netting huge potential windfalls from the Smith Barney deal. The real winners are those who have been given shares as part of their annual bonus under Salomon's stock incentive plan. Some long-servers were issued shares at as little as $30 each — leaving them with a $51-a-share windfall.

Salomon employees together speak for about 20 per cent of the firm's shares. Mr Middleton, who will continue to run European operations for the enlarged securities house, is likely to be enriched by several million pounds.

Perhaps the biggest single winner is Shigeru "Sugar" Myojin, London-based head of proprietary trading, who was paid $31 million in 1996, including $2 million in shares. Deryck Maughan, head of Salomon's worldwide operations, was paid $11.5 million.

Buffett's investment yields $1.4bn profit

THE purchase of Salomon Brothers will further enhance the reputation of Warren Buffett, "the Sage of Omaha", who ploughed $700 million (£434 million) of his investors' money into the brokerage in 1987, backed the firm in its darkest hour and is now sitting on a profit of more than $1.4 billion (Jason Nisse writes).

Berkshire Hathaway, Mr Buffett's fund, bought $700 million of Salomon preferred shares in 1987, showing faith at the time of the Wall Street crash. The shares carry a dividend of 9 per cent, paying Mr Buffett around $600 million over the decade.

When Salomon was hit by the bonds scandal in the early 1990s, Mr Buffett stepped into the breach and became the firm's chairman. He also invested further in Salomon shares, spending an estimated $320 million.

Mr Buffett cashed in $140 million of preferred stock two years ago and converted $140 million worth at $38 a share last year. The remaining $420 million converts at $38 per Salomon share into Travelers shares once yesterday's deal proceeds. The bid values each Salomon share at $81 and Mr Buffett's holding in Travelers at $1.73 billion.

Granada rules out disposal of Méridien Hotels

BY DOMINIC WALSH

CHARLES ALLEN, chief executive of Granada, yesterday ruled out a disposal of the upmarket Méridien Hotels chain but indicated that the Forte Heritage chain will eventually be sold.

Mr Allen, who has spent this week briefing City analysts and corporate clients on the group's plans, admitted there had been "a lot of confusion" over the future of Méridien. During the bid for Forte, Granada said it would be sold off, only to change its stance.

Mr Allen said: "We see Méridien as a significant opportunity. I don't want to own bricks and mortar around the world, but we're committed to it as a management contract business."

There are more than 90 Méridiens around the world and 16 under construction, and the aim is to hit 150 by the year 2000. Mr Allen added that the 30 owned properties ourside the UK would be sold over time provided Granada retained the management contract. He revealed that the brand would also be developed through strategic alliances with other hotel chains, particularly in the USA and Asia Pacific.

In the UK, Posthouse and the budget Travelodge chain are to benefit from next year's planned £200 million investment programme, with Posthouse being put through a £60 million makeover. However, the 65-strong Heritage chain will eventually be sold off. Thirteen hotels were put up for sale in the summer and Mr Allen conceded: "If we took a five-year view, we probably wouldn't be owners of the Heritage portfolio."

The Grosvenor House will be sold provided Granada can get the £350 million it is looking for, but some other Exclusive hotels that remain unsold may be retained.

Commentary, page 27

Joe Bloggs founder saves Emanuel

SHAMI AHMED, the multi-millionaire founder of Joe Bloggs, the high street clothing company, yesterday stepped in at the last minute to save the exclusive fashion business owned by Elizabeth Emanuel (Chris Ayres writes).

Ms Emanuel achieved worldwide recognition after designing the wedding dress worn by Diana, Princess of Wales. She had pleaded for financial help last month after the collapse of Hamlet, the clothing importer that owned a 48 per cent stake in her business. In the jeans, page 29



Emanuel: financial plea

McDonald's fast food course for college students

BY MARTIN WALLER

MCDONALD'S, the huge hamburger chain, is planning to convert the country's 1.6 million students to the Big Mac by issuing a special privilege card offering them extra hamburgers free with their meals. The card is being distributed through the National Union of Students.

The aim is that all students will receive the cards in time for the academic term just starting and be valid, on production of an NUS membership card, until August.

The marketing drive is the biggest push yet into the student market, which is already being courted by any number of commercial concerns, such as banks keen to catch consumers early in their working lives.

For McDonald's, the aim is the opposite. The company, locked in a bitter marketing battle with Burger King, is trying to reach out to an older consumer base, say observers. Ronald McDonald, the clown used as the company's mascot, is more associated with the children's market.

A company spokesman said *ad hoc* deals with local colleges were already in place, but the cards would now be useable across the country.

The idea of marketing McDonald's to students would have been unthinkable a few years ago in the heyday of student radicalism, and it is likely to attract some considerable criticism now. McDonald's is deeply unpopular in liberal circles.

The company has just emerged from a mammoth libel action against two environmental activists and is highly sensitive to suggestions that its production methods damage the planet's rainforests, or use large amounts of chemicals and preservatives.

But McDonald's said: "We don't get involved in the politics of this. We're selling food."

New yoghurt that fools the stomach

BY PAUL DURMAN

SCOTIA HOLDINGS, the company that tries to develop drugs from naturally occurring fats, is working on a yoghurt that fools weight-conscious consumers that they are full up.

If Scotia can prove its claims, the active ingredient in the yoghurt is potentially worth tens or even hundreds of millions of pounds to the company. Sales of the yoghurt in the Swedish market alone could generate up to £10 million for Scotia, it believes. But yoghurts are only a starting point, because Scotia believes that its fat extract can be added to almost any kind of food without encountering regulatory problems.

David Horrobin, Scotia's chief executive, said: "We believe this has major potential. It has strong patent protection, it is entirely natural, and it does not involve any of the fat substitutes or any of the alternatives that have run into trouble recently."

Some existing appetite-suppressing drugs have recently been withdrawn from the market because of new evidence that they cause heart problems. Scotia is working on the yoghurt with an unnamed Swedish milk company, which plans to begin test marketing the product early next year.

Scotia's LipidTeknik arm is initially developing its so-called 'ileal brake' as a food ingredient — cutting out much of the testing that would be necessary if it was to be marketed as a weight control drug.

The fat extract works by prompting a chemical release in the gut that slows digestion and gives the sensation of being full. Initial testing of the yoghurt on 60 people suggests that it can cut calorie intake at a meal by 15-30 per cent.

Scotia has not always delivered on its most exciting products, and its science is regarded with scepticism in some quarters. However, last week's $54 million (£33.5 million) licensing deals for Foscan, its laser-activated cancer drug, have bolstered confidence in its most important product.

Scotia's first-half sales grew by 38 per cent to £10 million. But higher research and development spending increased the pre-tax loss from £7 million to £12.8 million.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5077.2	(+49.7)
Yield	3.24%	
FTSE All share	2383.98	(+19.13)
Nikkei	18420.08	(+218.76)
New York:		
Dow Jones	8003.22	(+33.16)*
S&P Composite	956.53	(+4.60)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/16%*	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	100 16/32*	(99 28/32)
Yield	6.34%*	(6.39%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7 3/32%	(7 1/32%)
Life long gilt future (Dec)	117 15/32	(117 27/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6107*	(1.6135)
London:		
$	1.6125	(1.6123)
DM	2.8569	(2.8946)
FFr	9.6070	(9.7261)
SFr	2.3489	(2.3761)
Yen	193.42	(195.88)
£ Index	100.3	(101.4)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7743*	(1.7935)
FFr	5.9640*	(6.0235)
SFr	1.4600*	(1.4705)
Yen	120.27*	(122.05)
$ Index	105.1	(106.0)

Tokyo close Yen 120.09

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec) $18.85 ($18.65)

GOLD

London close $322.85 ($321.25)

* denotes midday trading price

Full house

Sir Lawrie Barratt presented his last full-year results as chairman of Barratt Developments, the housebuilder, announcing a 35 per cent rise in profits before tax. Page 26

Shell deal

Shell Oil, the American arm of the Royal/Dutch Shell group, has launched a $1.45 billion (£899 million) bid for Tejas Gas, a pipeline and gas storage company based in Texas. Page 27, Tempus 28

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Job loss rises in forecourt price war

BY KEVIN EASON
MOTORING EDITOR

PETROL retailers yesterday demanded that the Government declare a ceasefire in the price war that will cost nearly 10,000 forecourt jobs this year.

A delegation from the Retail Motor Industry Federation told John Battle, the Energy Minister, that 2,000 filling stations will close as small independent garages are caught up in the crossfire between the oil majors and supermarkets.

The Office of Fair Trading is due to publish results of its inquiry into the oil industry next month.

Oil companies have faced two investigations by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission into alleged price-fixing over the past decade as critics claim overcharging.

However, the industry now faces domination by the biggest players as independent garages fail.

The price war has been sparked by the entry of supermarket chains that sell huge amounts of petrol but with no overhead costs of refining and distribution. Oil majors, such as Shell and BP, have been forced to respond by matching the prices of Tesco, Sainsbury and Waitrose.

From 18,500 retailers two years ago, there are 14,500 now and the federation forecasts that number will be down to 9,500 by the end of the century.

Chris MacGowan, the federation's chief executive, warned after the meeting with Mr Battle: "This war between the supermarkets and the big oil companies is costing the country dear.

"In towns and cities, we do not notice the effects so much, but out in the countryside there are filling stations disappearing all the time. This is a loss of a valuable service to rural communities where the car is a vital means of transport."

Barratt signs off with 35% increase to £70m

BY ADAM JONES

SIR Lawrie Barratt presented his last full-year results as chairman of Barratt Developments, the housebuilder, yesterday, announcing a 35 per cent rise in profits before tax.

Driven by the buoyant market for new homes in the South of England, earnings for the year to June 30 were £70.1 million, up from £52.1 million in the previous year.

Turnover increased by 13 per cent to £714 million, with completions rising 10 per cent to 7,710. The return on capital employed was 21 per cent.

Sir Lawrie, who retired from Barratt in 1988 only to return in 1991 when the company hit trouble, predicted the growth in home ownership in Britain would continue for some years. He expects the housebuilding industry to consolidate into five big groups. Barratt has a 5 per cent share of the UK market for new housing.

Frank Eaton, chief executive, said it would not seek to grow by large acquisition, however, saying the main reason for such a move would be to acquire a competitor's surplus development land.

Barratt said it has a land bank sufficient for three years' supply. In the year, £123 million was invested in land in southern England, 59 per cent of total land purchases.

After retiring on November 20, Sir Lawrie will take on the unpaid title of life president, which he described as an honorary consultative role.

Mr Eaton will become chairman in addition to his present role. Sir Lawrie said such a dual role does not contradict corporate governance recommendations made by the Hampel committee.

Basil Bean, a non-executive director, will become non-executive vice-chairman, and a managing director will be appointed to work alongside Mr Eaton.

The average UK selling price was £87,100, up 3.9 per cent on 1995-96. Mr Eaton said he expects new housing prices to increase by 3 or 4 per cent in the current financial year.

Projects being completed include a £32 million development overlooking the Globe Theatre in London, close to St Paul's Cathedral.

Mr Eaton criticised reductions in mortgage interest tax relief continued by the Labour Government when it assumed power earlier this year.

Earnings rose to 19.8p a share from 17.8p. A final dividend of 6p will be paid, compared with 5.5p, giving a 9p total for the year, a 9 per cent increase. The total dividend is covered 2.2 times.

Tempus, page 28

ROBIN MAYES



Building up: Sir Lawrie Barratt, left, and Frank Eaton

Traditional soccer fans find games too costly

BY JASON NISSÉ

RESEARCH into the finances of football has confirmed the anecdotal evidence from the terraces that the game is now too expensive for many of its traditional supporters.

A survey of 2,500 football fans due to be published next week will show that 78 per cent of season ticket-holders at Premiership clubs and 55 per cent of those who attend some matches are social class ABC1, compared with 47 per cent of the population as a whole.

The report, by Fletcher Research, the publishers, and Oliver & Ohlmaum, consultants, indicates that only 750,000 fans attended at least one Premiership match last year even though 18 million people claim to be football fans, with 14 million supporting Premiership teams. Ticker prices in the top flight of English soccer have soared by more than 200 per cent in the past decade.

The survey predicts that the total football-related turnover of the Premier League will nearly treble from £350 million in 1995-96 to £1.1 billion in 2004-05. Of this, nearly half will come from pay-per-view TV, which is expected to be introduced in the early part of the next decade.

The largest share of this revenue will go to Manchester United, followed by Liverpool and Newcastle United.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Gucci shares fall on profits alert

THE label may still be seen on the backs of the world's most stylish women, but shares in Gucci, the Italian fashion house, have suddenly become unfashionable. The company, which was floated two years ago, issued a profits warning that poor economic conditions in some of its key markets will restrict its growth in the second half of this year. The statement triggered a fall of more than 15 per cent in the value of the shares, which are quoted in Amsterdam and New York.

Comparisons with last year, when it enjoyed exceptional growth, will be tough. However, the company added: "Worldwide demand for Gucci products remains very strong and our fall-winter collection has been praised by the fashion press and is selling well in the stores. We continue to believe that our long-term outlook remains excellent." The company's first-half net income rose 29 per cent to $90.3 million. Investcorp, the Bahrain private investment bank, floated Gucci in 1995. It took full control in 1993.

Yamaichi chief arrested

A WIDENING racketeer-payoff scandal claimed new members of Japan's business elite on Wednesday with the arrest of Atsuo Miki, the former president of Yamaichi Securities, and an executive shake-up at Daiwa Securities. Yamaichi is accused of making 79 million yen (£408,000) in illegal payments to a racketeer. Daiwa, Japan's second-largest brokerage, said its president, chairman and five other top executives would resign at the end of this month.

Micromass sold

MICROMASS, the Manchester instrument manufacturer bought in March last year by Schroder Ventures for £47 million, was sold yesterday for $178 million (£110 million) to the Waters Corporation, the American analytical instrument group. Around 30 senior staff at Micromass, once part of Fisons, invested in the buyout last year although details of their profits were not being released yesterday. Net sales were $91 million in 1996.

Cookson to sell Anzon

COOKSON, the specialist industrial materials company, has agreed to sell part of its plastics division to Great Lakes, the international speciality chemical company listed in New York. The deal will end Cookson's involvement in plastics additives, following the disposals of Synpro in 1995 and its pigments businesses in 1996. Cookson expects to sell Anzon, which has sales of £50 million and operations in the UK, the US, Mexico and South Africa, in October.

Two leave Sotheby's

SIMON DE PURY, chairman of Sotheby's Europe, and Daniella Luxembourg, deputy chairman of Sotheby's Switzerland, are leaving the fine art auction house to set up their own company and create an art fund on behalf of a small group of collectors. Henry Wyndham, a senior executive at Sotheby's for the past three years, becomes chairman of Sotheby's Europe. Diana Brooks, chief executive of Sotheby's Holdings, said: "We are very sad to see them go."

Brake Brothers falls

ANOTHER poor performance from Puritan Maid, the food distributor bought from Forte two years ago, adversely affected interim profits at Brake Brothers. Puritan Maid incurred a £3.9 million loss, causing group pre-tax profits to fall 13 per cent to £10.8 million. Brake said Puritan Maid is on the road to recovery and is expected to break even next year. Earnings fell 10.1 per cent to 14.2p a share but the interim dividend, payable on December 31, was increased to 3.2p (2.9p).

B&B raises rate

BRADFORD & BINGLEY, the second largest building society, is raising its variable mortgage rate by 0.25 per cent to 7.95 per cent. The average variable rate among larger lenders is 8.45 per cent. The society is pledging not to raise its rate again until the end of January, even if base rates rise again before then. The move is a delayed response to the July and August base rate rises. Borrowers of more than two years' standing will continue to pay a reduced rate of 7.75 per cent.

Airbus wins US deal worth $2bn

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

AIRBUS, the consortium that includes British Aerospace, yesterday won a $2 billion (£1.2 billion) order for 50 aircraft from Northwest Airlines, of the US.

The carrier has also taken out an option to purchase a further 100 aircraft, valued at an extra $4 billion if fully exercised. Northwest is purchasing A319s, Airbus's smallest craft seating 124 passengers each, and the option is for a mix of A319s and A320s, which seat 150. The order marks a major triumph for the European consortium, which has fought hard to maintain its presence in America.

Fears had been raised over its market position following the merger of its competitors McDonnell Douglas and Boeing, and their exclusive supplier contracts with three major American airlines.

Deliveries of the initial batch of 50 aircraft will start in 1999 and run until 2003. The sale will boost employment growth at the BAe plants in Bristol and Chester.

Pound falls against the mark

THE pound slumped on foreign exchanges yesterday after Hans Tietmeyer, President of the Bundesbank, said it would not tolerate further falls in the value of the mark.

In a separate intervention, Franz-Christoph Zeitler, a Bundesbank council member, said an unexpectedly good set of inflation figures did not rule out a rise in rates. The pound lost four pfennigs to finish at DM2.8565. The trade weighted index slid more than a point to close at 100.3.

New guidelines ask firms to report sooner

BY ROBERT BRUCE

COMPANIES will have to produce interim reports sooner and will have less scope to 'smooth' their figures under new guidelines published today by the Accounting Standards Board.

The ASB's guidance statement takes on many of the proposals published last November in exposure draft form. In particular, it has trimmed the 60 days allowed for companies to report under the current Stock Exchange rules back to 40 days.

Reports will have to be produced using what is known as the 'Discrete' method, ensuring that companies treat the interim period as a distinct accounting period and not as a proportion of the annual results.

Companies whose business is heavily seasonal, like retailers or tour operators, will have to report results which differ markedly between the first half and the second half of the year. The proposals will mean more companies reporting in the holiday period of August, a factor which was behind the original lengthy time allowance under the old Stock Exchange rules.

The guidelines are not mandatory, but the ASB feels that as a recommendation of best practice they will ensure that companies raise their reporting standards. "To be really effective, interims need to be timely and show what actually happened in the period," said Sir David Tweedie, the ASB chairman.

The proposals also encourage a lengthier section of management commentary to highlight and explain significant events. The guidance has been commended by the London and Irish stock exchanges, the Financial Reporting Council and the Hundred Group of Finance Directors.

Accountancy, page 34

EU rules out duty-free sales rethink

THE European Commission yesterday ruled out going back on a decision to scrap duty-free sales within the European Union in mid-1999, despite intense industry lobbying (Our City Staff writes).

Mario Monti, the EU Taxation and Single Market Commissioner, appealed to duty free shop operators to start concrete preparations for converting their shops to tax-paid retail outlets.

He issued a statement to coincide with an industry conference on duty-free sales in Brussels.

EU finance ministers decided unanimously in 1991 to abolish duty-free sales for travellers within the 15-nation bloc from June 30, 1999. Any decision to reverse this would also need approval by all member states.

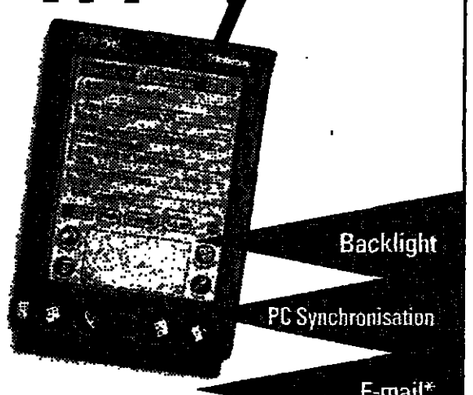
TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.34	2.17
Austria Sch	21.12	19.46
Belgium Fr	62.21	57.25
Canada $	2.368	2.178
Cyprus Cyp£	0.888	0.817
Denmark Kr	11.47	10.58
Finland Mkk	9.08	8.33
France Fr	10.08	9.30
Germany Dm	3.02	2.78
Greece Dr	478	439
Hong Kong $	13.32	12.12
Iceland	128	108
Ireland Pt	1.15	1.06
Israel Shk	5.96	5.31
Italy Lira	2997	2730
Japan Yen	208.63	191.10
Malta	0.666	0.607
Netherlds Gld	3.411	3.116
New Zealand $	2.68	2.44
Norway Kr	12.21	11.27
Portugal Esc	303.03	281.00
S Africa Rd	8.28	7.32
Spain Pta	252.79	234.00
Sweden Kr	13.01	11.81
Switzerland Fr	2.51	2.29
Turkey Lira	288958	268781
USA $	1.720	1.577

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM, 3-5 MARCH 1998

Blair gets in tune with business

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Over breakfast in Downing Street yesterday, Tony Blair's words to a collection of business big chiefs were as warm and comforting as the croissants. Any sensible political party should be pro-business and pro-enterprise, he told them. Sceptics might have taken this as merely the latest example of the cosying-up to business that Labour has done since Mr Blair took on the leadership. But it is looking increasingly as if the Government may be moving in tune with what business wants.

Margaret Beckett's latest move over the planned national minimum wage certainly points in that direction. Although most businesses would be happier without the imposition of any such restriction on how they reward their workforce, the indications from the President of the Board of Trade yesterday are that the level is likely to be set sufficiently low to cause little pain to employers.

In spite of his energetic wooing of corporate Britain, Mr Blair's arrival at No 10 had posed two big concerns for business. The first was the plan to force companies to recognise trade unions; the second was the threat of a national minimum wage.

The issue of union recognition remains a red rag to some businessmen, but, having accepted that it is inevitable, the CBI is at least being involved with the TUC in the process of trying to come up with workable proposals that might enable both sides of the employment equation to be relatively sanguine about the effects of the legislation. And now the Low Pay Commission is being given guidelines, which old Labour might interpret as a muzzle, that should ensure the commission has virtually no bite.

The obligation to take the economic implications of a minimum wage fully into account when recommending its level coupled with the demand to consider exemptions for young people, ought to encourage a sensible chap like George Bain to produce some very workable recommendations.

He will, for instance, be taking heed of today's survey from the British Chambers of Commerce, which emphasises that the level of the minimum wage will be crucial in determining the impact on jobs and inflation generally.

So far the signs from the commission look optimistic. Business leaders, trade unionists and the independent academics on it seem determined to reach a recommendation that will strike precisely that balance.

Next week, at the party conference in Brighton, Labour leaders will be faced with the challenge of continuing to keep the confidence of business while not alienating too many members of the party. But the hard-hitting speech that Tony Blair gave to the TUC gathering indicates the direction in which he will err. Some members of the TUC are still reeling from his instructions that they must bring themselves up to date or vanish for ever. As one staunch union man remarked, not even Lady Thatcher at her fiercest would have dared deliver such a lecture in the lions' den.

Now life really begins at Forte

Gerry Robinson and his team at Granada have made little secret of their disdain for the way most hoteliers run their businesses. During the hard-fought contest for Forte, the public criticisms were muted compared with the intimations that have come as the company has tried to impose new methods and financial disciplines on its acquisition.

But there is now an air of gentle gloating emanating from Granada: it claims to have achieved the level of profit improvement it sought. "We told you we could do it," they boast. Of course, it has been painful, they say. Jobs have had to go, morale has suffered. But now the rewards will be reaped. Let the new investment flow as the company demonstrates a continued commitment to the hotel business.

The Méridien chain, which some had thought likely to be in search of a new owner before long, is instead turned into an important part of future strategy, but romantics can forget any idea of Granada being a convert to the idea of hotels as a special sort of business, in need of particular indulgence. Instead, Granada chief executive Charles Allen says Méridien is similar to Sutcliffe, the contract catering company, in which Granada's techniques have succeeded in lifting margins from 4 per cent to more than twice that level. Some 15 Meridien contracts have been won in the past 18 months and more are in the pipeline. You can almost taste the portion control beginning.

But the changes go far beyond that. In a series of presentations to the City, Granada has been keen to show off just what innovation it has made at Forte, and it ranges from the introduction state of the art systems to sales and marketing programmes that should leave some other hoteliers standing. More than £200 million is to be ploughed into the hotel business over the coming year and if that does not produce results, then Mr Robinson will want to know why.

At least £60 million of the money will go into the Posthouse chain, a flagging brand which will have to work hard to retrieve the loyalty of its target business traveller market. Travelodge, which has allowed rival Travel Inn to cruise past it, will also benefit from new money.

The future for hotels is all about brands, and Granada has accepted the need to invest in building them. The results should underline just what a steal the Forte group was.

Buffett plays another ace

When news broke last week that Warren Buffett might be edging out of equities and into bonds, a frisson of fear rippled through Wall Street and towards the London stock market.

The legendary investor might only be moving what for him is the trifling sum of $2 billion, but Mr Buffett has earned a reputation for successful trend spotting.

Yesterday's surprise announcement that Salomon is giving up its independence to join with Travelers brought the Buffett seal of authenticity to another trend: the amalgamation of investment bankers. One might say that Mr Buffett had been a trifle slow in spotting a movement that has already seen Merrill Lynch thunder into Smith New Court, a host of European organisations change the signs over doors in the Square Mile and even adventurous British banks buying up US houses.

But that would be to ignore the full range of Mr Buffett's skills, for he has waited to deal until what must be pretty much the top of the market. Other institutions that cannot make it on their own are unlikely to be able to beat the terms that Salomon has negotiated.

The combined bank becomes one of the top players in the international league — a truly global operation. Its ascendance raises more questions over the future of the second liners in a world market that is eventually likely to be dominated by only a handful of investment banks.

Fashion victim?

SHAMI AHMED has demonstrated a shrewd business sense in building up his Joe Bloggs brand, becoming one of the youngest millionaires in the country. He has created a clothing empire based on cheap casual wear and a clever name. So it is hard not to feel fearful for his decision to get involved with a woman most famous for designing lavish creations of silk and satin, and whose own dress sense is somewhat questionable.

Shell Oil launches $1.4bn bid for Texas company

BY CARL MORTISHED

SHELL OIL, the American arm of the Royal/Dutch Shell group, has launched a $1.45 billion (£899 million) bid for Tejas Gas, a pipeline and gas storage company based in Texas.

The takeover, which is recommended by the Tejas Gas board, will increase the scale of Shell's extensive gas production and pipeline network in the southern states of America and the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition, it will consolidate Shell's control of Coral Energy, one of the top five energy marketing businesses in the US.

Shell is paying $61.50 for each Tejas share, compared with a market price of $50, and will be taking on $900 million in debt and preference shares.

Tejas has been expanding rapidly with acquisitions, becoming one of the larger interstate gas pipeline and storage companies, with operations in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

Tejas brings with it a 44 per cent stake in Coral Energy, a business established in 1995 with Shell Oil. In June, Shell Canada merged its gas marketing operation business with Coral and the Canadian Shell subsidiary acquired a 12 per cent interest in Coral.

Yesterday's deal gives Shell complete ownership of a business with total gas volumes of 6.9 billion cu ft per day, and in the first quarter of this year, Coral marketed 2.2 million megawatt hours of electricity.

Together, Tejas and Shell will own 10,600 miles of interstate pipelines with ac throughput capacity of 8 billion cu ft per day. They will also own gas reserves totalling 7.5 trillion cu ft.

Shell is making a significant push worldwide to extend its reach down the "gas chain" with pipeline and power generation projects. In the Gulf of Mexico, Shell Oil has invested heavily in deep water exploration over the past five years, finding huge oil and gasfields but deregulation is increasing the competition for market share in the US, causing a margin squeeze among the leading gas marketing companies.

Over the past three years Tejas has increased earnings by 25 per cent and cash flow by 27 per cent through a series of leveraged acquisitions, making the company, which is based in Houston, a potential takeover target, in spite of its relatively heavy debt load; analysts said.

The deal was approved by the Tejas board, and insiders holding about 19 per cent of the company's stock have agreed to vote for the merger. Jay Precourt, Tejas chief executive, and Frederic Hamilton, chairman, will remain with the company.

Tempus, page 30

New chiefs named by Burton

BURTON has taken another step towards demerger with the appointment of three managing directors to run the high street clothing brands that will stay within the main group (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Andy King, current managing director of Burton Menswear, will handle the menswear brands. Steve Longdon, managing director of Top Shop/Top Man, will handle women's wear and Hilary Riva, managing director of Evans, will look after the speciality brands.

The multiples business has yet to be renamed.

Greenalls seeks healthier future

BY DOMINIC WALSH

GREENALLS GROUP, the pub and hotel operator, is to launch a chain of standalone health and fitness clubs as part of an attempt to stem City fears over the group's future.

Shares in Greenalls plunged 37½p to 414p yesterday, their lowest level since early 1995, as the group issued a trading statement in which it admitted that its managed pubs estate was suffering from a slowdown in investment and dull trading in the Northwest.

Lord Daresbury, Greenalls chief executive, said the company had suffered from "taking a pause" in the wake of the acquisition of Boddington two years ago just as rival groups were pumping millions into their estates.

Capital expenditure will rise from £175 million this year to £200 million next, and the group expects some of that money to go into the new chain of health and fitness clubs. Investment in its managed pubs division — yesterday's culprit — will be boosted by £20 million to £110 million.

In the wake of yesterday's profit warning, analysts took a scalpel to their profit forecasts. Nigel Parson, of Chaterhouse Tilney, has shaved £4 million from this year's forecast, to £155 million.

Tempus, page 28

Avonmore Waterford warning

AVONMORE Waterford, the Irish dairy group forged by the merger earlier this month of two co-operatives, said yesterday that significant rationalisation costs and asset writedowns will hit results (Sarah Cunningham writes).

It intends to include all the one-off charges in the 1997 results "in as far as it is possible" and expects to see strong earnings growth in 1998.

In the half year ended July 5, Avonmore Foods' turnover rose to Ir£647.22 million (£588 million), while pre-tax profit rose to Ir£17 million (Ir£13.1 million). Waterford Foods' pre-tax profits in the half year to June 30 fell to Ir£7.82 million (Ir£10.64 million) as turnover fell to Ir£516.9 million (Ir£540.4 million).

Flotation of Energis stake confirmed

BY ERIC REGULY

THE National Grid confirmed yesterday that it will float a minority stake in Energis, its telecommunications subsidiary, by the end of the year. The offering is expected to value the company at about £1 billion.

The Grid probably will sell between 25 per cent and 30 per cent of Energis, and certainly no more than 49 per cent because it wants to retain control.

The initial public offering should raise more than £200 million in new money, which will be used to repay shareholder loans of about £230 million.

Energis was created in 1993 when the Grid spotted the opportunity to use its national electricity transmission network to launch a low-cost telecoms carriers. It did so by slinging high-capacity, fibre-optic cables underneath its electricity pylons. Energis has so far cost the Grid almost £600 million in infrastructure costs and operating losses.

Energis got off to a slow start, but is gaining customers rapidly as the demand from Internet service providers and media companies for high-capacity networks increases. The company expects to make its first operating profits this year, although it will be several years before it reports net profits.

When Energis appeared to be going nowhere, the Grid considered selling it outright or combining it with another telecoms opeator. Now that its fortunes have improved, the Grid wants to retain a majority stake. The flotation is designed to build Energis's value in the Grid's share price. Speculation about the flotation has boosted Grid shares in recent weeks, but yesterday they closed at 282½p, down 4p.

PETER TREVNOR



Mike Grabiner, left, with Chris Hibbert, finance director

Analysts said Energis could be worth anywhere from 30p to 70p per Grid share. Mike Grabiner, Energis's chief executive, last year agreed an options package that will give him Energis shares valued up to four times his annual salary of about £200,000.

Superscape recruits as loss deepens

Superscape, the software group that has seen its shares plunge from 778p to 56p over the past 12 months, saw its pre-tax losses deepen from £2.9 million to £6 million for the year ended July 31, on turnover of £3.1 million, down from £3.9 million.

Losses per share also deepened from 37.9p to 69.6p. No dividend will be paid. The company said it had recruited a new US sales team and repositioned itself as a supplier of interactive 3D products. Its 3D Internet browser will go on sale later this year. The shares rose 19p to 83p.

Good start

Electronics Boutique, the video games group, bounced back into the black in the six months to July 31 with a £622,000 pre-tax profit (£3.2 million loss) on sales up from £24.3 million to £42.8 million. Again there is no dividend. Earnings were 0.24p (1.25p loss).

Spandex dips

Spandex, the supplier to the sign industry, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £4.5 million to £3.6 million on sales of £18 million (£17.9 million). Earnings were 6.9p (8.6p), though the half-year dividend rises from 1.1p to 1.2p. The shares rose from 255p to 262½p.

Brake deal

LucasVarity, the transatlantic engineering group, is to supply braking components to the new Mercedes A class small car, due to be launched in October. It would not reveal the value of the contract.

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Jongleurs expands

JONGLEURS, the comedy club joint venture between Regent Inns and John Davey, who founded the concept in London 12 years ago, is to be rolled out nationwide (Dominic Walsh writes).

The original clubs in Battersea and Camden were recently joined by a third, in Bow, East London, and David Franks, managing director of Regent, said yesterday that further clubs were under construction in Oxford and Leicester. Sites had also been identified in Southampton, Watford, Nottingham and Cambridge.

In the year to July 5, Regent saw a 57 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £12.6 million on turnover up 40 per cent to £44.4 million. Earnings per share rose 45 per cent to 12.8p. A final dividend of 2.3p will be paid on November 17, making 3.3p (2.2p).

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"It will help to almost entirely replace fax traffic with E-mail by the end of 1998" believes Group 4's IT Manager, David Ella.

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Northern Rock leads the banking sector higher

SHARES of the Northern Rock soared to their highest level on the grey market, raising hopes of a bumper windfall for the building society's 820,000 members.

With less than a week to go before the start of official trading, IG Index, the City bookmaker, was quoting the price at 409p in the middle. Only last week, the opening price was being quoted at 388p. That compares with initial estimates by some brokers of just 360p a share.

Each Northern Rock member has been allocated 500 shares, which at last night's closing price were worth £2,045.

Brokers say the rising valuation has been prompted by a revival in demand for the banking sector generally during the past few days. Stock shortages have succeeded in exaggerating those gains. Yesterday, **HSBC** surged 68½p to £20.07, **Abbey National** 17½p to 899½p, **Lloyds TSB** 9½p to 773p, **Royal Bank of Scotland** 12½p to 651½p, **Standard Chartered** 15p to 862½p, and **Bank of Scotland** 10p to 472½p.

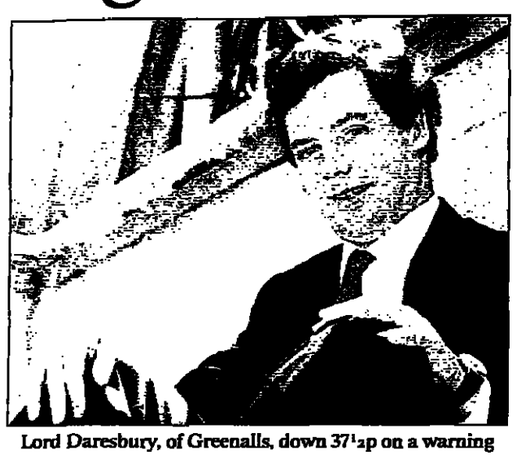
The rest of the equity market recovered from a shaky start to close at its best of the day. A confident start to trading by government securities ahead of today's second auction was underpinned by an opening rise for the Dow Jones industrial average in New York. The FTSE 100 index finished 49.7 up at 5,077.2 as a total of 790 million shares changed hands.

Brokers say the proposed break-up of the London Underground could turn out to be good news for **Railtrack**, whose shares responded with a rise of 23½p to 890½p.

GEC fell 4p to 387p despite the best efforts of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, which has produced a 50-page tome recommending the shares as a "buy".

The profit-takers moved in on **National Grid** as the price dropped 4p to 282½p after the company confirmed plans to float its Energis telecom business separately for £1 billion.

Granada, up 18p at 864½p, has made a favourable impression with brokers after playing host to them yesterday. ABN Amro Hoare Govett rates the shares a "buy" while UBS is thought to have increased its profit forecast. Société Géneral Strauss Turnbull has set a target price for the shares of 890p. Earlier this week Granada concluded the sale of another business, bringing the total raised through disposals since it bought Forte to £1.4 billion.



Lord Daresbury, of Greenalls, down 37½p on a warning

The shock profits warning from **Greenalls**, where Lord Daresbury is chief executive, left the shares nursing a loss of 37½p at 414p. The time it took to integrate the £500 million-plus acquisition of Boddingtons allowed its competitors to steal ground on the pubs to hotels chain. It means profits in the second half are likely to be flat compared with last year. Brokers have downgraded their forecasts for the full year by £10 million to £154 million.

Brokers paying a visit to **Booker**, up 3p at 307½p, later today will be hoping the company has something positive to say. They will be looking at the integration of the Nurdin & Peacock cash and carry business.

BAT Industries shrugged off the possibility of further court cases in Brazil following a successful action brought by one smoker. The shares rallied 10½p to 535p.

Prudential Corporation has emerged as the principal buyer of a 5 per cent stake in **Incepta Group**, at 19½p. It now holds 5.4 million shares, or 3.14 per cent, of the public relations firm headed by David Wright, the doyen of City PR. **Incepta** was steady at 20½p.

Yet another bid approach lifted **JLI Group** 10½p to 55½p. This is the second time this year the group has been in talks about a possible bid.

Aquarius stood out with a jump of 14½p at 165½p after Mark Bates, finance director, splashed out £164,500 on 100,000 shares at 164½p.

News of a bid approach failed to lift **Arcadian International**, which ended the session 4p cheaper at 61½p. The hotel operator carries a price tag of almost £100 million.

Dailywin responded positively to the news late on Tuesday that it was seeking a listing for its shares in Hong Kong. Shares in the furnishing group closed 10p stronger at 112½p.

A "buy" note from ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, lifted **Middlesex Holdings** ¼p to 8¼p. Turnover reached 30 million shares.

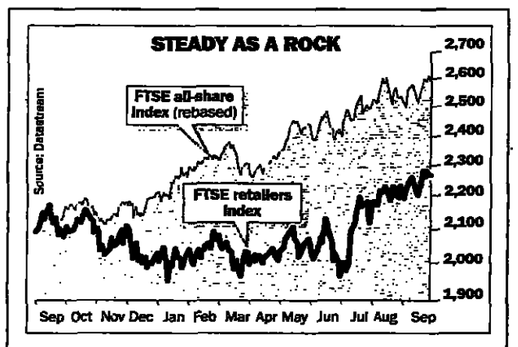
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices were back into positive territory, supported by firmer US Treasury bonds, while taking comfort from a subdued set of German inflation numbers.

With the second of this week's auctions due later today, investors were unable to drum up too much enthusiasm.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt recouped Tueday's losses with a rise of £¼ to £117¹⁵⁄₁₆ as a total of 49,000 contracts were completed.

In longs Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was £⁵⁄₁₆ better at £114²⁷⁄₃₂, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 put on £¹⁄₁₆ at £103⁵⁄₁₆.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Blue chips pared their advance at midsession as investors proved reluctant to add to the morning's rally. The Dow Jones industrial average was 33.16 points higher at 8,003.22 by midday.



NOT only are Northern Rock's members excited by its forthcoming flotation, but the high street retailers are also hoping to drum up business on the back of the latest windfall. August may have been a slack month but many of them are pinning their hopes on a bumper run-up to Christmas.

Nick Bubb, retail analyst at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker, does not think they will be disappointed. "The last couple of weeks have already seen momentum pick up. Allders was upbeat and it will be interesting to see results next week from Laura Ashley and Oasis," he said.

"As long as the weather stays okay we should see a strong run-up to Christmas. People are just starting to realise that. It will be interesting to see if the pattern of spending has spread from big ticket items into clothing," he added.

Those expected to benefit most are the likes of Dixons, up 16½p at 630p, Kingfisher, 3½p better at 797p, Burton Group up 5p at 133¾p, and Carpetright, down 5p at 512½p.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones ..... 8003.22 (+33.16)
S&P Composite ..... 956.53 (+4.60)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average ..... 18420.08 (+216.76)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ..... 14205.44 (+111.00)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 905.16 (3.98)

Sydney:
AO ..... 2768.9 (-8.0)

Frankfurt:
DAX ..... 4102.39 (+4.19)

Singapore:
Straits ..... 1900.51 (-15.59)

Brussels:
General ..... 13497.38 (-97.43)

Paris:
CAC-40 ..... 3023.77 (+26.54)

Zurich:
SKA Gen ..... 1194.70 (+3.40)

London:

FT 30	3278.2 (+24.2)
FTSE 100	5077.2 (+49.7)
FTSE 250	4722.9 (+13.0)
FTSE 350	2440.7 (+20.6)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2685.09 (-5.35)
FTSE All-Share	2383.98 (+19.13)
FTSE Non Financials	2406.00 (+18.02)
FTSE Fixed Interest	130.26 (+0.11)
FTSE Govt Secs	99.64 (+0.12)
Bargains	40937
SEAQ Volume	791.2m
US$	1.6124 (-0.0003)
German Mark	2.8565 (-0.0383)
Exchange Index	100.3 (-1.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4522
£:SDR	1.1837
RPI	158.5 Aug (3.5%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	157.1 Aug (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Antofgsta Cv Uts	397½	...
Aram Resources	105	...
Bristol & West Prf	116¼	+ ½
Cammell Laird	148½	+ 3½
Computerland UK	127½	+ 7
EMI B	121	...
GR Holdings	52½	...
Galen Holdings	273½	- 12
Helicon Pubsig	92½	...
I S Solutions	135½	...
Kingfisher Leisure	185	...
Reabourne Merlin	104½	...
SBS Group	110½	...
Severn Trent B	37½	...
Stentor Warrants	40	+ 1½
Thorn B	20½	...
Viglen Technology	59	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Gearhouse n/p (250)	97½	- ½
John Lusty n/p (8)	1½	...
Langdons Foods n/p (1)	½	...
Misys Uts Cnv U n/p	72½	- 7½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Sentry Farm	93½p (+10p)
BICC	162½p (+15p)
Clinton Cards	108½p (+10p)
Smart (J)	260p (+22½p)
Scotia	436p (+18½p)
Blacks Leis	392p (+16p)
Brake Bros	489p (+15½p)
Boots	863½p (+24p)
REXAM	342p (+9½p)
Smithkline	574p (+15½p)
Dixons Gp	630p (+16½p)
Next	767p (+17p)
BAA	570p (+12½p)
Bank Scotland	472½p (+10p)
Granada	864½p (+18p)
Cable Wireless	534p (+11p)
BAT	535p (+10½p)

FALLS:

Greenalls Gp	414p (-37½p)
Blick	255p (-10p)
Regent Inns	324p (-12½p)
Celltech	296½p (-11p)
Photobition	712½p (-10p)
Britannic	915p (-12½p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Coming out of its Shell

THEY do things differently at Shell Oil in Houston. A year ago, the company's parent in London mused about a bid for British Gas. The latter was wrestling with expensive take-or-pay gas contracts as well as fighting its regulator, Ofgas. But the situation had interesting possibilities as Shell is a major gas producer in search of markets. BG's pipelines and customers would have given Shell immense clout in the UK energy market. In the end, Shell bottled out; probably wisely, wary of the regulatory risk. But the oil company's pugnacious American arm is moving downstream aggressively and yesterday agreed to take over Tejas, a pipeline and gas marketing company, with a big market share and an enterprise value of $2.4 billion.

In the US, too, deregulation of the domestic energy market is causing strife among competing companies. Upstream energy companies such as Shell and Enron are not just pumping gas out of the ground and generating kilowatts but moving down the chain to market the product to consumers. A profusion of new gas marketing companies has lead to crumbling margins and lower profits.

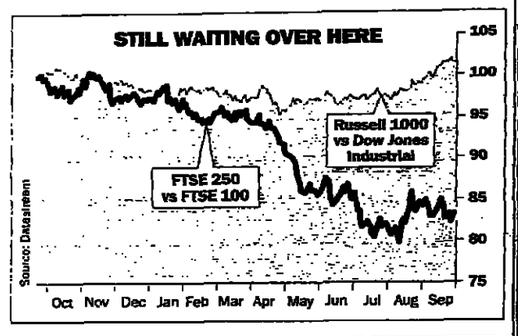
Shell's move will be followed by more consolidation as market leaders gobble up the weak. This is a game in which a gigantic and relatively slow-moving company such as Shell can win by adding value to its huge gas reserves with pipelines and power stations: projects in Peru, India and the Philippines are under way. The question is whether Shell will extend its reach downstream in Europe by taking over an electricity or gas distributor. It could be expensive but as competition increases, Shell cannot afford to stand aloof in the North Sea.

Mid-cap companies

FUND managers who have filled their books with high-yielding recovery stocks must be looking wistfully at the US where smaller companies are finally making the moves. Since April the Russell 1,000 index has been outperforming the Dow and technical analysts are expecting a similar correction in London. The hope is that the metal-bashing exporters and domestic service businesses that make up the FTSE 250 index will begin to outperform after lagging the market leaders for so long.

There are some fundamental reasons to expect a correction. Earnings growth has been stronger in the mid-250 than among the FTSE 100 leaders and sterling has slipped after its surge against the mark. If rates in the UK are peaking, the pound may find its natural level nearer DM2.80 than DM3, providing exporters relief on pricing and the ability to restore some lost margin.

Yet, the correction may prove short-lived. Growth in GDP of less than 2 per cent will provide a weak platform for growth for smaller companies, while the banks and big oil companies still have scope for more of the massive internal restructuring that has been driving their profits growth. A change in sentiment could well lift the shares of Pilkington or a packaging company such as David Smith but without better underlying markets, the recovery will be brief.



Greenalls

GREENALLS covered itself in sackcloth and ashes yesterday, admitting it had taken its eye off the ball in the wake of the £527 million purchase of Boddington two years ago. Lord Daresbury confessed that while the industry threw £1.5 billion into pubs, Greenalls was sitting on its hands wondering what to do next.

Belatedly, Greenalls has discovered that its managed estate contains a lot of pubs in weak locations incapable of sustaining the overheads required in a managed operation. These community locals will be shifted into its tenanted and franchised business. It also plans to weed out the worst performers in its northern heartland, where trading this year has been dire, and refocus its attention on expanding in the South. Pubs will be sold at the rate of about 100 a year, boosting its coffers as it seeks to catch up with the competition. In the circumstances, it is just as well Lord Daresbury had second thoughts about selling De Vere Hotels, as seemed likely last year. De Vere lifted revenue per available room by 14.5 per cent in the 11 months to the end of August, while the Village Leisure hotels that came with Boddington were up 10.9 per cent. Plans for a chain of standalone health and fitness clubs are a further sign that Greenalls is tyring to pull its socks up, but it will be some time before its efforts bear fruit.

Barratt

FROM November 20, Sir Lawrie Barratt retires as chairman of the house-builder that bears his name, only to pop up again in the vaguely-defined role of "life president".

At another company, this might cause anxiety over the succession, but not Barratt, where Sir Lawrie has consistently deflected praise for the group's post-1991 revival to Frank Eaton, his chief executive. Investors may raise an eyebrow, though, at the prospect of Mr Eaton taking both the title of chief executive and chairman. Barratt says the appointment of a managing director and a non-executive vice-chairman will address these concerns but the profusion of titles is baffling.

Barratt is in a strong position to continue its impressive earnings growth, helped by a weighting to southern England and a healthy land bank, for which it does not appear to have overpaid. A forward p/e for 1997-98 of about 10.8 reflects market scepticism about the sustainability of earnings growth across the housebuilding industry, because of worries about interest rates. But Barratt's potential for significant volume growth in its newer divisions makes it attractive if you feel pessimism is overdone.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH FUNDS

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
101¹⁄₃	100	Treas 8¾% 1997	100		8.75	
106³²⁄₃₂	100²⁵⁄₃₂	Exch 15% 1997	100²⁵⁄₃₂	- ¹⁄₃₂	14.90	7.15
115¹⁄₃	113²⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 14¾% 1998	115¹⁄₃	.	4.00	6.89
103¹⁄₃	102²⁵⁄₃₂	Exch 9¾% 1998	103²⁵⁄₃₂		9.67	6.98
101¹³⁄₃₂	100¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 7¼% 1998	100¹⁵⁄₃₂		7.24	7.08
110¹⁄₃	104¹³⁄₃₂	Treas 14% 1998-01	104¹³⁄₃₂	- ¹⁄₃₂	13.42	7.05
114¹⁄₃₂	108¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 15¹⁄₂% 1998	108¹⁵⁄₃₂		14.33	7.03
108¹⁄₃₂	105¹⁄₃₂	Treas 12% 1998	105¹⁄₃₂		11.39	7.05
105¹⁄₃	102¹⁄₃₂	Treas 9½% 1999	103¹⁄₃₂	- ¹⁄₃₂	9.22	6.99
111¹⁄₃₂	107¹⁄₃	Exch 12¼% 1999	107¹⁄₃		11.41	6.99
108¹⁄₃₂	105³²⁄₃₂	Treas 10½% 1999	105¹⁄₃		9.96	6.97
99³²⁄₃₂	96¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 6% 1999	98¹³⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	6.09	6.84
109¹⁄₃	106¹⁄₃	Conv 10¼% 1999	106¹⁄₃₂		9.63	6.97
106¹⁄₃	104¹⁄₃	Conv 9% 2000	104¹⁄₃	+ ¹⁄₃₂	8.60	6.88
104¹³⁄₃₂	102²⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 8% 2000	103²⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	7.74	6.88
104¹⁄₃	102²⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 8¼% 2000	103¹⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	8.03	6.93
119¹⁄₃₂	114²⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 13% 2000	115¹⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	11.28	6.90
112³²⁄₃₂	98¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 10% 2001	109¹³⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	9.14	6.84
101¹⁄₃	98¹⁄₃₂	Treas 7% 2001	100¹³⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	6.94	6.89
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
101¹³⁄₃₂	97¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 7% 2002	101¹³⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	6.92	6.89
122¹⁄₃	109¹⁄₃	Treas 9¾% 2002	112³²⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	8.69	6.79
105³²⁄₃₂	102¹⁄₃₂	Treas 8% 2003	105¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	7.55	6.72
116¹⁄₃₂	111¹⁄₃₂	Treas 10% 2003	115¹⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	8.65	6.77
116¹⁄₃₂	113¹⁄₃	Treas 11¹⁄₄% 2001-04	114³²⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	10.08	6.88
99¹⁄₃	87³²⁄₃₂	Fund 3½% 1999-04	98¹⁄₃	+ ¹⁄₃₂	3.95	5.54
115¹⁄₃	109¹⁄₃₂	Conv 9¼% 2004	115¹⁄₃	+ ¹⁄₃₂	8.29	6.71
100¹⁵⁄₃₂	94¹⁄₃₂	Treas 6¼% 2004	100¹³⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	6.12	6.66
111¹⁄₃₂	104¹⁄₃₂	Treas 8½% 2005	111¹⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	7.64	6.67
122¹⁵⁄₃₂	110¹⁄₃₂	Conv 9½% 2005	116¹⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	8.17	6.69
129¹⁄₃₂	122¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 10¼% 2003-05	126¹⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	9.75	6.78
105³²⁄₃₂	98¹⁄₃₂	Treas 7¼% 2006	105²⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	7.09	6.65
107¹⁄₃₂	99¹³⁄₃₂	Treas 7¼% 2006	107	+ ¹⁄₃₂	7.24	6.69
104¹³⁄₃₂	100²⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 8% 2002-06	104¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	7.65	6.88
123²⁵⁄₃₂	115²⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 11¼% 2003-07	121¹³⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	9.65	6.80
112²⁵⁄₃₂	105¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 8½% 2007	112²⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	7.53	6.68
104¹⁵⁄₃₂	98¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 7½% 2007	104¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	6.92	6.61
119²⁵⁄₃₂	108¹³⁄₃₂	Treas 9% 2008	118¹⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	7.92	6.65
110¹³⁄₃₂	101	Treas 8% 2009	110¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	7.21	6.66
99¹⁄₃	85¹⁄₃	Treas 6¼% 2010	95¹⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	6.49	6.66
128¹⁄₃	109¹⁄₃	Conv 9% 2011	128¹⁄₃	+ ¹⁄₃₂	7.45	6.67
121²⁵⁄₃₂	108¹⁄₃	Treas 9% 2012	121²⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	7.39	6.67
90¹³⁄₃₂	80²⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 5¾% 2008-12	90¹³⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	6.06	6.47
109²⁵⁄₃₂	98¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 7¼% 2012-15	109²⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	7.08	6.68
LONGS (over 15 years)						
113¹⁄₃	100²⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 8% 2013	113¹⁄₃	+ ¹⁄₃₂	7.07	6.65
114¹⁄₃	101¹⁄₃₂	Treas 8% 2015	114¹⁄₃	+ ¹⁄₃₂	6.96	6.58
123¹⁄₃	105³²⁄₃₂	Treas 8¾% 2017	123¹⁄₃	+ ¹⁄₃₂	7.10	6.62
117¹³⁄₃₂	101¹³⁄₃₂	4¼% 2021	117¹³⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	6.62	6.54
UNDATED						
52²⁵⁄₃₂	43¹⁵⁄₃₂	War Ln 3½%	52¹⁄₃	+ ¹⁄₃₂	6.65	
36¹⁵⁄₃₂	30¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 2½%	36²⁹⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	6.79	
58¹⁄₃₂	49¹⁵⁄₃₂	Consols 4%	57¹⁵⁄₃₂	- ¹⁄₃₂	6.91	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
189¹³⁄₃₂	184¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas IL 2½% 2001	189¹³⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	274	346
186¹⁵⁄₃₂	180²⁵⁄₃₂	Treas IL 2½% 2003	186¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	2.93	3.43
173¹⁵⁄₃₂	167¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas IL 4¼% 2004	173¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	2.97	3.41
198¹⁄₃	191¹⁄₃	Treas IL 2% 2006	198¹⁄₃	+ ¹⁄₃₂	3.65	3.35
179²⁵⁄₃₂	170¹³⁄₃₂	Treas IL 2½% 2009	179²⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	3.07	3.34
187²⁵⁄₃₂	178¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas IL 2½% 2011	187²⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	3.11	3.34
154¹⁵⁄₃₂	144¹³⁄₃₂	Treas IL 2½% 2013	154¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	3.13	3.34
166¹⁵⁄₃₂	156¹³⁄₃₂	Treas IL 2½% 2016	166¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	3.15	3.34
191²⁵⁄₃₂	147¹³⁄₃₂	Treas IL 2½% 2020	189²⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	3.20	3.34
130²⁵⁄₃₂	122¹³⁄₃₂	Treas IL 2½% 2024	130²⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	3.21	3.35
131¹⁄₃	119²⁵⁄₃₂	Treas IL 4¼% 2030	131¹⁄₃	+ ¹⁄₃₂	3.21	3.35

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Sep 97	118-06	118-12	118-06	118-13	610
Previous open interest 174853	Dec 97	117-21	118-02	117-20	117-30	49970
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Dec 97	102.67	103.05	102.59	102.95	193610
Previous open interest 280396	Mar 98	101.88	102.15	101.85	102.14	3289
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Dec 97	111.88	112.30	111.64	112.25	54092
Previous open interest 120615	Mar 98	.	.	.	112.10	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 97	127.98	128.08	127.97	128.07	3492
	Mar 98	127.05	127.09	127.05	127.07	1748
Three Mth Sterling	Dec 97	92.56	92.59	92.56	92.58	13160
Previous open interest 639135	Mar 98	92.56	92.60	92.56	92.58	11487
	Jun 98	92.65	92.68	92.63	92.66	15308
Three Mth Euromark	Dec 97	96.44	96.49	96.44	96.47	45214
Previous open interest 1568775	Mar 98	96.22	96.28	96.22	96.25	55487
Three Mth Eurolira	Dec 97	94.02	94.06	93.98	94.05	17226
Previous open interest 380865	Mar 98	94.68	94.77	94.65	94.75	29610
Three Mth Euroyen	Mar 98	.	.	.	99.40	0
	Jun 98	99.35	99.35	99.35	99.35	800
Three Mth Euroswiss	Dec 97	98.26	98.29	98.24	98.26	9401
Previous open interest 148817	Mar 98	98.05	98.09	98.02	98.06	5768
Three Mth ECU	Dec 97	95.59	95.60	95.58	95.59	813
Previous open interest 33460	Mar 98	95.52	95.56	95.52	95.55	502
FTSE 100	Dec 97	5110.0	5173.0	5088.0	5169.0	7577
Previous open interest 65835	Mar 98	5150.0	5213.0	0		

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7 Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼, Low 6½ Week fixed: 7
Treasury Bills (Disc)Buy: 2 mth 6¹¹⁄₁₆; 3 mth 6¹³⁄₁₆ Sell: 2 mth 6¹⁵⁄₁₆; 3 mth: 6¹⁄₁₆

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Disc):	7-6⅛	7¹⁄₁₆-6¹³⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-6¹⁵⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆	
Sterling Money Rates:	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁵⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆
Interbank:	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁵⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆
Overnight: open 7 , close 6¹⁵⁄₁₆					
Local Authority Depo:	7¼	n/a	7¼	7¼	7¼
Sterling CDs:	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆
Dollar CDs:	5.54	n/a	5.62	5.70	5.84
Building Society CDs:	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆	7¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁄₁₆

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5¾	5¹³⁄₁₆-5¹¹⁄₁₆	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5¾	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5¾	5¼-4½
Deutschemark:	3¹⁄₁₆-2¹⁄₁₆	3¹⁄₁₆-2¹⁄₁₆	3¹⁄₁₆-3	3¼-3¹⁄₁₆	3¹⁄₁₆-2½
French Franc:	3¹⁄₁₆-3	3¹⁄₁₆-3¹⁄₁₆	3¹⁄₁₆-3¹⁄₁₆	3¼-3¹⁄₁₆	3¹⁄₁₆-2½
Swiss Franc:	1¹¹⁄₁₆-1¼	1¹⁵⁄₁₆-1¼	1¹⁵⁄₁₆-1¼	1¹⁵⁄₁₆-1¼	1¹⁄₁₆-½
Yen:	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $321.80-322.10 Close: $322.60-323.10 High: $322.80-323.20
Low: $321.80-322.10 AM: $322.00 PM: $322.70

Krugerrand: $322.00-324.00 (£200.00-202.00)

Platinum: $442.00 (£274.55) Silver: $4.75 (£2.935) Palladium: $194.00 (£120.50)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Sept 24	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2153-3.2490	3.2155-3.2184	1¼-1pr	3¼-3pr
Brussels	59.920-59.500	58.950-59.003	21-16pr	59-52pr
Copenhagen	10.871-10.972	10.871-10.881	¼-¼pr	1-¼pr
Dublin	1.0908-1.1025	1.0932-1.0953	11-5pr	34-27pr
Frankfurt	2.8552-2.8829	2.8555-2.8582	¼-¼pr	2¾-2¼pr
Lisbon	290.33-293.06	290.33-290.67	¼-¼pr	¼-¼pr
Madrid	240.99-243.17	240.99-241.22	42-31pr	138-120pr
Milan	2786.6-2812.8	2786.6-2790.8	21-5pr	72-50pr
Montreal	2.2364-2.2496	2.2378-2.2400	0.71-0.66pr	1.37-1.29pr
New York	1.6120-1.6172	1.6120-1.6130	0.208-0.187pr	0.648-0.617pr
Oslo	11.581-11.645	11.587-11.597	¼-¼pr	1-¼pr
Paris	9.5940-9.6840	9.5958-9.6033	3¼-3pr	9¾-9¼pr
Stockholm	12.177-12.253	12.177-12.196	¼-¼pr	¾-½pr
Tokyo	193.10-193.92	193.27-193.56	1¼-1pr	3¼-3¼pr
Vienna	20.095-20.291	20.095-20.115	¼-¼pr	2-1¼pr
Zurich	2.3474-2.3696	2.3474-2.3505	1¼-1pr	3¼-3¼pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3863-1.3883
Austria	12.46-12.47
Belgium (Com)	35.55-35.60
Canada	1.3873-1.3878
Denmark	6.7449-6.7469
France	5.9530-5.9550
Germany	1.7718-1.7723
Hong Kong	7.7390-7.7400
Ireland	1.4744-1.4764
Italy	1729.50-1730.00
Japan	119.90-120.04
Malaysia	3.0515-3.0565
Netherlands	1.9946-1.9951
Norway	7.1646-7.1706
Portugal	179.90-180.20
Singapore	1.5100-1.5110
Spain	149.38-149.48
Sweden	7.5606-7.5681
Switzerland	1.4580-1.4590

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso	1.6125-1.6152
Australia dollar	2.2352-2.2381
Bahrain dinar	0.6020-0.6160
Brazil real	1.7632-1.7676
China yuan	13.229-13.259
Cyprus pound	0.8385-0.8575
Finland markka	8.5225-8.6635
Greece drachma	449.75-460.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.4737-12.4831
India rupee	57.97-59.27
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4835-0.4945
Malaysia ringgit	4.9208-4.9319
New Zealand dollar	2.5239-2.5282
Pakistan rupee	63.80 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8125-5.9475
Singapore dollar	2.4352-2.4383
S Africa rand (com)	7.5070-7.5760
U A E dirham	5.8650-6.0010

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3I	3,000	Ladbroke	3,600
ASDA Gp	5,900	Land Secs	1,400
Abbey Nti	1,800	Legal & Gn	1,400
Alinco & Lele	1,500	Lloyds TSB	4,400
Allied Dom	2,500	LucasVarity	2,400
AB Foods	358	Marks Spr	5,700
BAA	1,500	Mercury Ast	520
BAT Inds	9,200	NatWst Bk	3,400
BG	7,300	Nat Grid	9,300
BOC	1,500	Nat Power	2,700
BP	4,000	Next	2,500
BSkyB	7,300	Orange	935
BTR	9,900	P & O	4,800
BT	20,700	Pearson	1,900

Five enormous piggies are too few

Price Waterhouse's ambitious but unimaginative plan to merge with Coopers & Lybrand was instantly panned. Workday business folk enjoy any chance for innocent merriment at the expense of accountants, much as policemen falling down holes or accidentally felled umpires bring out the worst in those of us normally obliged to show respect. An attempt to create the world's biggest professional services group offers plenty of scope for malice before its fate is decided by the votes of 8,500 partners, the thumbs of regulators and the chequebooks of clients.

How different has been the initial reception of another agreed financial services merger that aims to bring together America's Smith Barney and Salomon Brothers. The logic is plain. By putting together complementary businesses, it might create a new one capable of much more than either partner on its own. The lure of adding two and two to make five is so great that Wall Street seems happy to face the punishing prospect of melding two firms with wildly different cultures.

The purpose of both mergers is ultimately the same: to create a world-scale firm with the clout to compete in any market and capable of tackling any task that its increasingly global clients are likely to throw at it. By being ahead of the game that its clients are playing, each seeks to gain a lasting commercial advantage.

One reason for the contrasting responses is that Coopers and Price Waterhouse are remarkably similar. Putting the two together doubtless fills in geographical and personnel weaknesses. Its chief aim, however, is to make a new firm similar to the old ones but bigger, able to cut more costs, beef up information consultancy and deploy more resources to fast-growing markets in post-Communist economies.

The timing is also a little suspicious, coming after a long boom. The last round of mergers, which cut the big eight to the big six by bringing together the smallest, came at the end of the 1980s.

Partners of Price Waterhouse, the most upmarket in its own collective mind, refused to dance that time. Now it is number six and has been feeling exposed, especially in America. If "CLPW" is born and the big six become five, Deloitte Touche Tomahtsu, then fifth, may well embrace Ernst & Young, by then number four. After another economic cycle KPMG, by then the smallest of four, might look to fulfil the prophecy that there will only be three world accountancy firms in the next century.

Surely, the strategic thinking of the world's top financial advisers cannot be as silly as that. On this thinking the key is to get your merger in last, so that there are no more mergers to be had, or that would be allowed.


GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Many industries have fewer truly global competitors. Investment banking is one. But thereby hangs the essential difference. Consolidation among securities houses is building more top houses. Salomon Smith Barney would be one of those itching to challenge Goldman Sachs's profitable dominance in global equity issues. Five years hence there might be eight world-class firms instead of three or four today. This is a creative process of evolution that adds to choice.

Shrinking accountancy's big six just cuts competition. Except in countries with distinctive accounting systems, there is no buoyant second layer of big firms to fill the spaces left by mergers. The world firms, all Anglo-Saxon, have driven out many medium-sized players, notably in English-speaking countries. The merger may be aimed at servicing a few key mutinationals, but Coopers has about 5,000 audit customers in the UK alone. To compete, medium-sized firms have had to specialise, for instance in owner-managed firms, travel or show business.

The combined CLPW would audit 30 per cent of America's *Fortune* 500 top companies. In Britain, by histroical accident, a bizarre situation would be created. CLPW would audit more than half the top hundred UK quoted companies. Realistically, such companies have only the other four to choose from. This is untenable. Competition authorities will surely insist on sharing that business around. Will UK partners vote for losing two in five of their top national clients? Possibly not.

Accountancy has become a complex monopoly because of the need to avoid conflicts of interest. In some deals, a potential client is lucky to have any choice of top accountant or solicitor. Another merger will make things worse. The UK authorities, directly or via Brussels, should be suspicious when fees are already far from modest.

The last thing we want is to stifle the development of accountancy, which is one of the UK's most competitive sectors. Firms should, however, look to other ways to achieve their ends. One or two could cede a lot of routine national business to concentrate on big clients, though none might be brave enough to do this first. They could grow by adding local firms where that is still possible, by franchising their brand names or by using local firms as feeders for their global services. There could more effort to overcome barriers to combining with law firms and to amed the doctrine of joint and several liability, which leads to insolvency accountancts suing other accountants for billions.

If capital is short, perhaps accountants should reconsider the partnership system more fundamentally. Short of converting to full company status, CL and PW might ponder that Goldman Sachs manages with fewer than 200 partners against their combined 8,500. Most of all, management consultants need to be more creative about their own affairs. Internal logic that falls foul of public realities is no logic at all.

Firm behind $10m liar's poker is dealt a $9bn safer hand

Eric Reguly tells the story of the bank that returned from the edge of failure


Warren Buffett invested heavily in Salomon as he nursed the firm back to health after a financial scandal

The idea that Salomon Brothers would be one day be owned by an insurance company would have been laughable in the 1980s. Salomon was a fiercely independent operation, one that combined the raw energy and in-your-face aggression of Drexel Burnham Lambert, Mike Milken's legendary shop, with the respectability of Morgan Stanley. The combination produced the most powerful trading machine that Wall Street had ever seen. It was home to the "Big Swinging Dicks", immortalised by *Liar's Poker*, Michael Lewis's book about Salomon's rise and its often brutal culture.

Now it is be owned by Travelers Group, a somewhat genteel financial services giant best known for selling life, property and casualty insurance and annuities. The takeover, paid for in Travelers' shares, values Salomon at $9 billion (£5.6 billion) and will vault Travelers, which also owns Smith Barney, a domestic American investment and brokerage firm, into the international financial big leagues.

In London alone, Salomon has 1,300 employees, equivalent to more than a fifth of its worldwide total, and Peter Middleton, the former monk who runs Salomon's European operations, has become one of the best-known bankers on the Continent.

Salomon lost much of its power and glamour in the early 1990s and its takeover began to seem inevitable. In the first half of the decade, it got clobbered by a US Treasuries auction scandal, deep losses in its energy unit and bond trading operations, and wave after wave of defections. While Warren Buffett, America's best-known investor, used his financial resources and business savvy to stabilise the firm, he failed to restore it to its former glory.

Globalisation and the effort to create full-service securities firms were the forces that ended its indepedence. The big three — Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch — became bigger and more powerful in almost every area except fixed-income trading. A senior banker in Salomon's London office said: "We really didn't want to get taken over but we recognised that we were lagging behind in the race to create a full-service global bank. If were were going to be taken over by anyone, Travellers was the logical candidate."

Travelers' Smith Barney unit and Salomon appear to complement each other well. Smith Barney has virtually no presence outside the US; Salomon has considerable international reach, notably in Europe. Salomon has no retail distribution capabilities; Smith Barney does. Smith Barney has a strong presence in equities, municipal finance and asset management; Salomon's strength is fixed-income trading. Although it is trying hard, Salomon is not considered a player in the equities market.

Sandy Weill, chairman and chief executive of Travelers, said: "The complementary strengths of these two organisations, combined with the impressive talent of the people on both sides, will create a financially powerful and formidable competitor in virtually every facet of the securities business, in any region of the world."

The new group, to be called Salomon Smith Barney, will rank third in equity underwriting, second in US debt underwriting, first in municipal finance and fourth in mergers and acquisitions. The pro-forma balance sheet will have $9 billion of equity, making it the second-largest securities firm by that measure, after Morgan Stanley. The market reaction to the merger was immediately positive. IBCA, the London credit ratings agency, said the two firms were a natural fit and pointed out that the one area of conern "is the challenge the management will have in combining two firms with distinctly different cultures".

Indeed, Salomon is renowned for its risk-taking culture. Its greatest successes came from proprietary trading, the Wall Street argot for betting the ranch. Salomon was genetically programmed to gamble. *Liar's Poker* took its name from the high-stake betting game played by Salomon's traders. John Gutfreund, Salomon's chairman during its heydey in the 1980s, raised the stakes to absurd levels in 1986, the year when Salomon reached the height of its power and arrogance. In what has since become a legendary challenge, he approached John Meriwether, one of the firm's star traders, and said: "One hand, one million dollars, no tears." Meriwether's response: "No, John . . . ten million dollars, no tears."

Salomon was founded in 1910 by Arthur, Herbert and Percy Salomon as a money brokerage firm. During the First World War, it became a US government securities dealer and specialised in bond trading. This formed the bulk of its business until the late 1970s, when Gutfreund became managing partner. His first big move was a merger with Philbro Corp, an international oil and commodities trader. In the 1980s, Salomon made a fortune in mortgage-backed securities, a market it dominated, and turned an army of young traders into instant millionaires.

The good times, of course, could not last forever. The mortgage market eventually went into the tank and Salomon suffered losses in the 1987 stock market crash. Salomon withdrew from the municipal bond and commercial paper market and made the mistake of entering the leveraged buyout game. Two buyouts that it backed, Southland and Revco, became spectacular bankruptcies. But the worst was yet to come.

In 1991, there was talk that Salomon was manipulating US Treasury auctions, a tightly regulated market that does not allow any one player to buy more than 35 per cent of an issue. Salomon was exceeding the limit through unauthorised bids; it bought 94 per cent of the May 1991 issue.

Complaints triggered a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation. Gutfreund resigned and Warren Buffett was installed as chairman to restore confidence. He appointed Robert Denham, a Texan who was one of his lawyers, and the British-born Deryck Maughan, as Salomon's top executives.

Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway group became Salomon's biggest investor and Buffett sold assets to keep Salomon afloat during the Treasury crisis. His efforts allowed Salomon to pull through, but the overhaul of a controversial bonus scheme, which had allowed top employees to earn more than $20 million each when the firm was losing hundreds of millions, backfired. Morale sank and dozens of top managers and traders defected to rival firms. The resignations became so frequent that, by 1995, Salomon's very survival came into question.

In the end, Maughan was forced to modify the compensation plan. Stability returned and markets were booming. The next year, 1996, became the second best in the company's history, with net income of $617 million.

Salomon's return from near death, of course, only made it a more attractive merger partner. Its main strength was still fixed-income trading and this alone would not ensure its success in the global securities market. Smith Barney and Salomon together will be a formidable force, but their merger marks the end of an era. It is hard to imagine games of liar's poker being played on the trading floor of a group controlled by an insurance company.

For Joe Bloggs it isn't only in the jeans

Jon Ashworth considers the ability of Shami Ahmed to seize the moment

Richard Branson would approve. At 35, Shami Ahmed, the man behind the Joe Bloggs clothing label, has proved every bit as adept at seizing the marketing moment. He did it when Brian Lara hit 501 runs for Warwickshire, inviting a highly public spat with Levis. Now he has hit the headlines again, stepping in to "save" Elizabeth Emanuel, as much a household name, thanks to the Royal Wedding, as Joe Bloggs is not.

For a self-made millionaire, Ahmed cuts a surprisingly low-key figure. All the potential is there — homes in Manchester and London, luxury cars — but Ahmed has largely succeeded in evading the gossip columnists. Born in Pakistan, he arrived in the UK in 1965 when his father, an engineer in the RAF, was posted to Lancashire.

Jets led to jeans, with the family opening a market stall in Burnley. When Ahmed was 14, the family moved to Manchester, opening a shop called Dollar Jeans.

Known at school for his immaculate dress sense, Ahmed did not excel academically, leaving at 16 with two O levels, and a warning from his teachers that he would come to nothing. He formed Joe Blogges in 1986 — the name was intended to be "British and common-sounding" — and was lucky enough to hit it big with Manchester teenagers, just as the "Madchester" club scene was taking off. The clothes became popular on the terraces, even making their way into the 1991 FA Cup Final, through sponsorship deals with Tottenham Hotspur and Nottingham Forest. Famously, Paul Gascoigne refused to comply.

Fuelled by bands like the Stone Roses and Happy Mondays, "Madchester" set Ahmed on his way. Today he is worth at least £30 million, and enjoys all the trappings, with a chauffeur-driven Bentley, a Rolls-Royce, a penthouse in Manchester and a home in London. He no longer wears a gold Rolex — once his trademark — but is still an occasional visitor to Tramp, the fashionable London nightclub.

Ahmed married in January, and says he is most likely to be found these days enjoying a quiet meal at Harry's Bar. Four years ago, he was more intent on grabbing headlines with products such as "the world's most expensive pair of jeans" — diamond-encrusted, and valued at more than £100,000.

Jeans were just the beginning. Joe Bloggs has expanded to embrace toiletries, soft drinks, women's wear, children's wear, sunglasses and even compilation albums. The group of companies has sales of more than £50 million. As with Richard Branson's Virgin, the growth is driven by licensing deals, taking Joe Bloggs as far afield as Japan and America. In the past three years, Ahmed has diversified into UK property, investing through a vehicle called The Legendary Property Company.

One of Ahmed's most successful moves was backing Brian Lara at the height of his cricketing fame. His plans for a "501" series of jeans and T-shirts resulted in a heated clash with Levis, which threatened legal action to protect their 501 label. Ahmed compromised by calling his label five hundred and one. The affair was later dismissed as a clever PR stunt. Buying Elizabeth Emanuel could prove his shrewdest move yet.



Water works

WHAT is the difference between a managing director and a chief executive? I am none the wiser after asking Thames Water, which yesterday announced the promotion of Bill Alexander from the former to the latter. Sir Robert Clarke used to be non-executive chairman, but became an executive chairman when the former chief executive, Mike Hoffman, was turfed out 18 months ago. This meant they didn't need a chief executive, except that now they do.


"Right, you. Who's this Joe Bloggs then?"

Because Clarke is retiring in 18 months, I think I have got that right.

Perish the thought that the news was meant to draw attention away from the impending departure, at age 52, of another board member, Bill Harper. He has been concentrating on strategy and systems, and has done such a good job that he has strategised and systematised himself out of a job. Negotiations about a payoff are continuing.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

I WAS chatting to a City type, best unnamed, a couple of days after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, when he let slip that a couple of clients were debating using this as the basis for profits warnings — and not just in retail. Hard to believe anyone would be so cynical, and I thought no more of it. Now Reg Vardy, the motor dealer that even sounds like a motor dealer, if you take my meaning, has blamed the Diana effect. Said my man in the sheepskin coat yesterday: "The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, had a marked impact on demand and as a result we suffered a decline in sales. Of motors, like. We anticipate however, that the shortfall can be made up over the coming weeks. So it ain't all bad, tragic though it is for us all, guv'nor. Do you a nice second-hand Ford Orion, eight thousand on the clock, one driver, schoolmistress, only used it to go to church on Sundays."

Swiss roll

HUGELY puzzling why one largely unknown Swiss-Swedish engineer should keep winning plaudits as the most respected company in Europe. ABB Asea Brown Boveri. Have you heard of it? Thought not. Yet it has won top slot in the latest in a string of opinion polls among chief executives across Europe from the *Financial Times* and Price Waterhouse. Four times in a row now. Don't ask me why. The other consistent performer has been Nestlé, which I still associate with Ernest Saunders and the Third World baby milk scandals of the 1970s. But the Swiss chocolate box has had to share second place this time with British Petroleum.

I ask my informant just why an obscure and, let's face it, dull company which splits its parentage, what is more, between the two dullest countries in Europe should keep winning. "There's an element of continuity about this thing," he says cynically. "Once you have established yourself as a respected company . . ."

THE annual Carnivores Club dinner at the Butchers' Hall, a joint celebration of meat eating between Groupe Chez Gérard and Chester Boyd, is never short of a clever stunt to wave in front of the lettuce-eaters — last year they sent out pickled sheep, à la Damien Hurst, with the invites. This year's has run into a problem. Chester Boyd is Sir Roger Cork's company. There were plans to drive a couple of sheep across Tower Bridge, relying on his ancient right as Lord Mayor to do just that. A live bull will also feature at the dinner on October 16. But the farmers providing the sheep got cold feet. They were worried about the animals' safety.

Shar-key

THE Hamilton Gallery in Mayfair yesterday hosted a party for the 50th birthday of John Sharkey. His career has taken in Saatchi & Saatchi, the Tory Party, an attempt to buy the Mirror Group and now the agency BST. The best present came from Manpower, the US recruitment consultant which Sharkey ran briefly after he joined Tony Berry's Blue Arrow. Berry sent Sharkey to Manpower's Milwaukee HQ with orders to "change the locks and fire anyone called Fromstein".

But Mitchell Fromstein, Manpower's boss, was made of sterner stuff. He fought Berry and gained control of Blue Arrow, ousting both Berry and Sharkey. Manpower's present to Sharkey yesterday was a framed key with the legend: "The doors to Manpower are always open."

MARTIN WALLER


Fromstein: long memory for man from Milwaukee

David Crawford introduces a report on relocation and tells how the UK has become a magnet for foreign firms

Flying the flag and wooing the investors

Before the General Election, *The Wall Street Journal* described the UK as "the most attractive country" for a foreign firm wanting a manufacturing presence in Europe.

Speaking at last week's launch of the East of England Investment Agency, Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, was at pains to underline Labour's commitment to maintaining the "UK's number one position in Europe for attracting investment".

The *1997 World Investment Report* from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) highlights the success of the Invest in Britain Bureau, set up 20 years ago by a previous Labour government and now given enhanced status by coming under both the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department of Trade and Industry. Unctad shows foreign direct investment in the UK rising to $8 billion and to $30 billion in 1996 for the European Union as a whole. Major contributors were investments by the Korean electronic giants LG Group and Hyundai, which announced plans worth £4 billion.

Our new post-election factor is devolution for Scotland and Wales, which aroused local fears over investment implications. While defending Labour's commitment to devolving powers back to the people", Mrs Beckett stresses that "the UK can only benefit properly if we all pull together".

> 'We must pull together . . . as long as we all co-operate, devolution will have a positive effect'

She added: "That means presenting a seamless picture to overseas companies of the advantages of investing in the UK, regardless of regional differences. As long as we all co-operate in this, devolution will have a positive effect."

It is clear in any case that major business moves, inward investment and domestic relocations are increasingly based on complex corporate and technical factors which override geographical and political boundaries.

A survey of 50 British and UK-based multinational companies shows that saving costs — for example, by moving to a cheaper region — is now way down the priority list as compared with increasing competition, globalisation of markets, business growth and changing technology.

"Multinationals no longer expand country by country," added Andrew Gould, a partner in international property consultants Jones Lang Wootton, who carried out the survey for one of the UK's largest commercial property owners. "With all their operations now linked by information technology, they can look at Europe and select the most competitive location to carry out each function on a continental scale."

A good example is logistics, which would previously have favoured locations in, for example, a Benelux country. But US construction toy manufacturers K'Nex has taken advantage of the Channel Tunnel to base its European assembly plant at Ashford in Kent.

One of the largest growth areas involves call centres, expected to employ one million people in the UK by 2001 and one of the world's most site-flexible businesses thanks to advances in telecommunications. London Electricity's calls are handled in Sunderland, Virgin Rail's in Edinburgh and Holiday Inns' in Amsterdam. Language skills are obviously critical, and the UK scores thanks to its many resident ethnic groups.

International competition is also growing with the spread of English as a world communication medium, while traditional landmark headquarters buildings are not necessarily the answer as companies rely on "fewer but cleverer people", Gould said.

Theoretically these trends could free companies to locate themselves almost anywhere. But the fewer but cleverer employees are aware of their worth and capable of expressing preferences for living and working in attractive places — which could mean fresh demands for city-centre locations well equipped to house smaller and more cost-effective, but more intelligent, offices as well as for metropolitan living.

"Soft" issues of environment, consultation and communications are proving increasingly vital in securing staff support. Meticulous planning underlies operations such as BT's decentralisation to strategically based M25 sites (for instance Stockley Park near Heathrow) and the Ministry of Defence Procurement Executive's recently formed relocation, moving more than 7,000 employees from 15 offices in London, the South Coast and Bath, to a purpose-built HQ at Abbey Wood, north of Bristol.

Soft issues are even more sensitive when it comes to the international relocation of senior company executives. Bids to woo investment in the UK from the world's emerging markets are being supported by developments such as the link-up between Hambro Countrywide Relocation and Eastern European logistics experts Hayklan Concepts, which is already working closely with Russian and other Eastern European companies targeting the EC.



Best of Britain: Concorde and a Spitfire fly over the white cliffs of Dover, which beckon overseas investors to set up businesses here

Valleys move into top gear

WALES

WALES'S narrow "yes" vote in last week's referendum should not stifle inward investment, according to the Welsh Development Agency (WDA).

"Companies consider locations on a Europe-wide basis," said the agency's international director, Hilary Hendy. "They come across regional assemblies while undertaking site evaluations in continental Europe. So they will not be surprised to find a similar structure operating in Wales."

This financial year the WDA is on target to meet its goal of creating 8,000 jobs and attracting £400 million in capital investment.

The Japanese car component manufacturer Toyoda and TRW of America have established a £10.7 million joint venture at Neath. The plant will create 200 jobs manufacturing pumps for steering systems.

Last month two more Japanese manufacturers came to Wales to supply inward investors resident in Britain. Yajima and Yamada arrived within a week, and both chose to locate in Ebbw Vale.

The precision engineering firm Yajima is investing £6 million in a plant producing metal frames for Sony's television tubes, creating 70 jobs. Yamada (Wales's 54th Japanese-owned manufacturing business) is establishing a £3 million automotive components plant. Its 100 new staff will produce oil and water pumps for Honda.

Ebbw Vale and the Gwent Valleys have also been successful in attracting American investment. The electrical connector manufacturer Aeromotive undertook a £1 million expansion in the town. And automotive components manufacturer Tenneco invested £12 million at its Tredegar plant, creating 100 new jobs in the process.

These investments indicate that the WDA is fulfilling the Government's objective of locating businesses away from the M4 corridor. Similarly in North Wales, the German companies Bos and FAUN have unveiled projects in Wrexham and Anglesey, which lie outside the A55 corridor.

Car components manufacturer Bos is undertaking a £10 million expansion at its Wrexham plant, creating 100 new jobs. FAUN has bought a local bin lorry manufacturing plant on Anglesey. After its £2.3 million investment, it has won a major contract to supply Hong Kong.

Most companies that have relocated or expanded in Wales this summer are in the automotive industry. This is a key sector and employs more than 15,000 people in almost 70 plants.

Another key sector is electronics. After netting LG last year, Wales is keen to attract another major player. Speculation is mounting that Taiwanese computer giant Acer will locate its European manufacturing plant in Wales, creating 1,000 jobs.

IOLA SMITH



President of Yamada with Peter Hain, Minister for Wales

Peace equals prosperity

NORTHERN IRELAND

THE prospects for peace in Northern Ireland, with the resumed ceasefire and the start of all-party talks, have added to the healthy economic signs appearing in the Province. The signals are strong that the political and tribal divisions that have scarred Northern Ireland for so long are being treated with a most effective antidote: more jobs, a richer economy, and a future beyond the dole queue.

There is ample evidence that this optimism is based on more than illusory pie in the Antrim skies. Unemployment, which peaked at 17.2 per cent in October 1986, last month dropped to a 17-year low of 7.9 per cent. The present record number in employment has grown by nearly 7 per cent over the past five years, four times the overall UK growth rate. Northern Ireland's GDP has doubled that of the UK in real terms, manufacturing output rose by 19 per cent in the past five years and according to the Industrial Development Board for Northern Ireland (IDB), the forecast is that employment and population will both rise faster than any other of the UK's 11 regions. That would make Northern Ireland the second fastest expanding region in Britain.

Barry Gilligan, chief executive of Ewart PLC, the only public property development company in the Province, said the IRA ceasefire and the start of talks had opened the road to political stability. "Nobody can be in any doubt about the benefits this will bring," he said.

Ewart this week reported a leap in pretax profits from £1.8 million to £2.6 million. Company policy has been to trade out of investment property in mainland Britain to reinvest in Northen Ireland property.

The Belfast Hilton, in which Ewart is a partner, is to have an extra floor of bedrooms, making it the largest hotel in the Province, and planning permission has been requested to extend residential and leisure schemes at the company's Lanyon Place development.

Coopers & Lybrand's annual salary survey last December showed a 36 per cent increase in the profits of leading firms, while the Europe-wide survey by Grant Thornton, the international accountancy group, found that one third of all owner-managed businesses expected to have created more jobs by the end of the year, twice the UK average and four times the European expectation.



Barry Gilligan on top of Belfast's Hilton Hotel

Even the small business sector experienced a 37 per cent upturn in sales during the second half of last year, says the IDB. Its list of economic success stories is long, with the prospect of more to come, particularly in high technology. BT's £9.1 million investment in a telemarketing centre in southwest Belfast offers training for the young unemployed.

RONALD FAUX

A prescription for success

SCOTLAND

A WARNING that Scotland could face the same problems as Thailand if it relies on the job-intensive "assembly straitjacket" has been swiftly followed by announcements of further blue-chip investments north of the border.

Scotland has excelled itself in the quality of inward investment, yet Robert Crawford, now on secondment to the World Bank from Scottish Enterprise, has been spreading a cautionary message.

"Scotland's recent economic advances will only be maintained if we move from a dependency on comparative advantage, such as a well-educated, relatively inexpensive labour pool, to one where the latter may not actually be putting the products together, but is designing, marketing and controlling their distribution," he said.

The two developments that should please Crawford are in the field of call centres and drugs. Scotland has pioneered the development of call centres in the UK. More than 100 centres employ 10,000 people, and this year First Direct, BT, Midland Bank, Tesco and Thomas Cook have plans for new centres.

Now a second generation of specialised centres is emerging. The latest, Teletech, an American company, takes on technical support for hi-tech companies, involving skilled workers and employment for graduates. Up to 800 people could be employed at a centre planned for the Glasgow area.

The availability of highly qualified chemistry graduates has also been a factor in the decision of the Dutch pharmaceutical company, Organon, to set up a £16 million research development, bringing 60 new jobs to its centre in Lanarkshire. All its depression and psychosis research will be carried out there. Sam Galbraith, the Health Minister, said the jobs were evidence that inward investment in Scotland did not rely on simple "screwdriver" operations.

Scotland now claims to be the semi-conductor capital of Europe, with 13 per cent of its output and employing 8,000 people. The jewel in the crown is the £2.4 billion development of two plants in Dunfermline by Hyundai, which will create up to 2,000 jobs and a further 1,600 in construction. It is Europe's largest inward investment.

The Japanese company Nikon has also opened the UK's first semi-conductor education and application centre at Livingstone, providing training for companies in Scotland and around the world. Shigeo Ono, chairman of Nikon Corporation, told Brian Smith, the Scottish Office Industry Minister: "The benefits of this new centre will be considerable as the engineers who complete their training here will receive instruction in cutting-edge technology."

ALAN JENKINS



Brian Smith, left, and Shiego Ono at the centre's opening

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Full steam ahead for new jobs for old

John Grigsby on the role culture plays in attracting investment

ENGLAND

In Cornwall, workers at the old 200-year-old Redruth Brewery are making Yixing, a rice-based Chinese lager under licence and are planning to export it to China.

In York the historic railway carriageworks, which closed in 1995, will soon be employing 300 people making 2,500 freight wagons for the European market for the Chicago-based Thrall Car. In the spring, Hitachi announced a new company, based at Bolton, to provide practical solutions to Europe's tough exhaust regulations.

From beer to biochemicals, from motorcars to microchips, investment from overseas firms is booming in England and is set to outstrip even last year's record levels when foreign firms accounted for at least £5.5 billion in capital investment. In the first six months of this year, England gained 315 of the 426 UK inward investment projects, according to management consultants Ernst & Young.

The attractions include relatively low labour costs, combined with an improved productivity record and a "flexible" labour force. Language is also an important attraction. "Cultural factors have played a role in attracting American and Japanese investors, who have a greater affinity with the UK than with some of the continental countries," says Mr Rees.

England is particularly attractive for electronics, pharmaceuticals, the automobile industry, telecommunications and call centres and high-technology industry.

Many of the UK's 50 science parks are in England, with close links to universities. Mitsubishi Electric's decision to base its European research and development centre in England owed much to the presence of Surrey University, where it is located. The Cambridge Science Park forms the nucleus of a cluster of 1,000 high technology firms in the area. Nigel Davis, managing director of Innovir, the US biochemical company, says that the firm was drawn to Cambridge "because of its proximity to cutting-edge science and technology".

The 19 English New Towns have played a significant part. More than 1,300 overseas firms have moved there, and with 4,670 acres earmarked for employment use, the Commmission for the New Towns is energetically marketing sites abroad. Milton Keynes, for example, has attracted more than 50 Japanese firms without offering financial inducements.

The success of Cambridge, as well as much of southern England, has been achieved without the help of regional investment agencies. The East of England Agency only started operating in April and South East Regional Investments Ltd became the last in the network of ten English regional agencies at the beginning of this month.

York set up an inward investment board, funded by the city council and business, which negotiated with Thrall Car in what Paul Murphy, chief executive of the board, regards as the most significant inward investment from the US this year. "Thrall Car's arrival has given the city a tremendous boost."

Locate in Kent, another council-business partnership, has helped five French firms to cross the Channel this year, and has 340 overseas-owned companies employing 29,500 people.

One of its attractions is Kings Hill, a mixed development business park near West Malling, which has attracted ten overseas companies. Day Runner International and Magna Interior Systems have also sited their European headquarters there.

The Northern Development Company is regarded as one of the most successful of the regional organisations, attracting to the North East over the decade 520 projects with a capital value of more than £8.8 billion, including Nissan, Siemens, Samsung and Fujitsu.

Ian Jones, deputy chief executive for Devon & Cornwall International, says: "When companies are coming from America and Europe, they look at the main centres of industry which are the Midlands, the North and around London. We have to work hard to persuade companies to look at our area.

"Once we get them here, they like what they see."



Tom Tutty, 67, a former rail worker at the York carriage works, celebrates the arrival of the Chicago-based Thrall Car at the old works site

City gateway to the single market

LONDON

GOVERNMENT plans to give London a sharper profile for the millennium, with an elected mayor and assembly and a regional development agency, look sure of backing next May, following devolution successes in Scotland and Wales. *David Crawford writes.*

The new central focus for strategic planning and economic development, regeneration and integrated transport is also seen as a potential business benefit. "We look to the mayor to be a supersalesman or saleswoman for London at home and abroad," says Patrick Kerr of London First Centre (LFC), the capital's inward investment agency.

Last month, LFC announced its 100th new arrival in the shape of the American call centre teleservice operation ITC Group, which has its first UK base in Harrow. With 70 per cent of completed projects hailing from North America, the common thread, said centre chairman Sir Colin Marshall in welcoming ICT, is that "London is their professional gateway to the European single market".

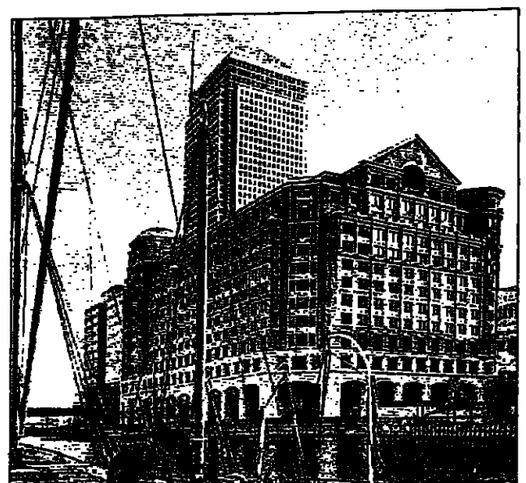
Analysis of LFC results shows that more than half the 33 London boroughs have benefited from new investments secured and existing ones safeguarded. This has demonstrated the centre's ability to work beyond the boundaries of its founding sponsors of Westminster, the City and Docklands.

Judith Mayhew, chair of the City Corporation's policy and resources committee, says: "Our strength is the clustering of primary financial markets and supporting professional services, which no other global centre can match."

The City is defending its role as a global financial centre with initiatives such as the Corporation of London Economic Development Unit, set up to implement its first-ever economic development strategy, and CEENET. Formed in 1995, initially to target Central and Eastern Europe, CEENET has now widened its remit to encouraging financial practitioners from all the world's economic growth zones to open City offices.

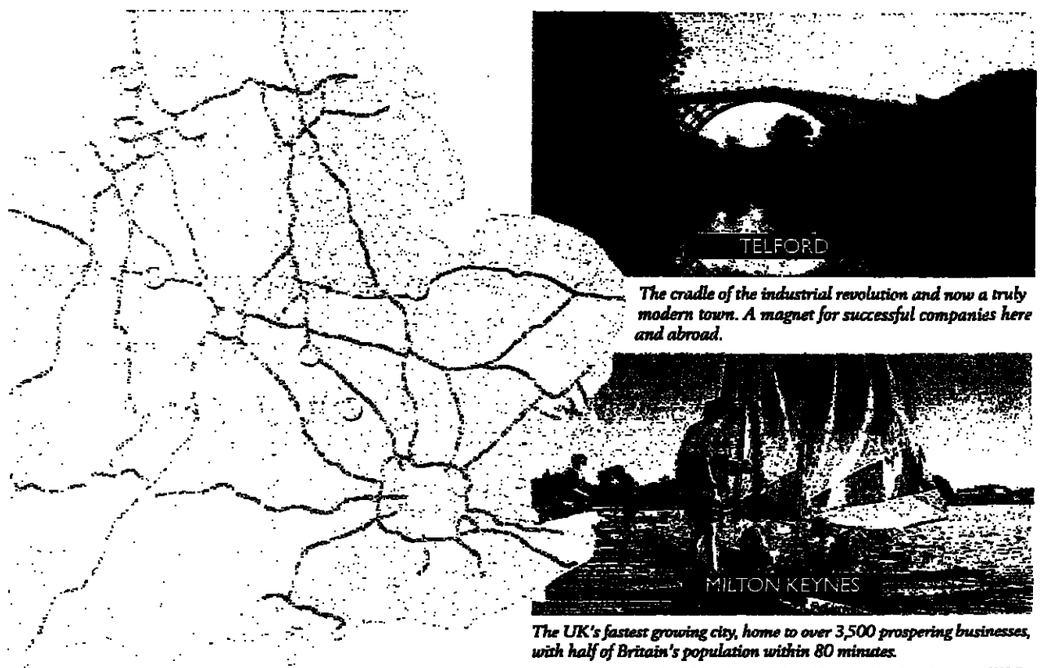
With sites enjoying planning consent for a record 1.5 million square metres of offices, deputy City Surveyor Peter Bennett is confident that the City can accommodate new investors.

Docklands is one of several centres highlighting London's eastern corridor. The Thames Gateway Partnership is focusing attention along a line leading from the City to new economic nodes like Chatham Maritime and emphasising locations such as Thamesmead.



Canary Wharf in Docklands: landmark of city investment

Business success means being in the right place at the right time.

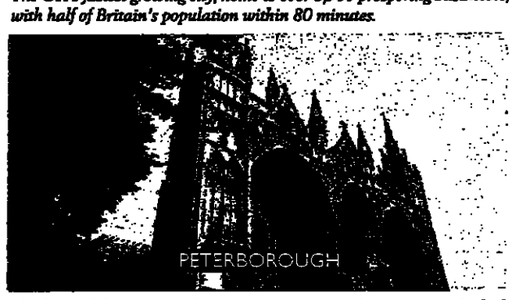


The cradle of the industrial revolution and now a truly modern town. A magnet for successful companies here and abroad.

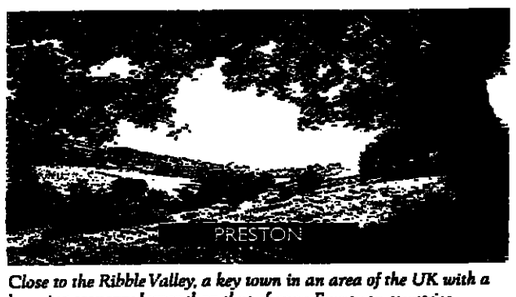
The UK's fastest growing city, home to over 3,500 prospering businesses, with half of Britain's population within 80 minutes.



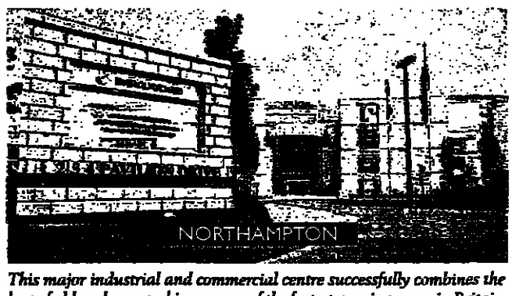
Strategically located between Manchester and Liverpool, at the focal point of the UK's biggest concentration of motorways.



The focus of the country's fastest growing region, this ancient cathedral city is ready to meet the needs of the future with new communication links and modern infrastructure.



Close to the Ribble Valley, a key town in an area of the UK with a booming economy larger than that of some European countries.



This major industrial and commercial centre successfully combines the best of old and new and is now one of the fastest growing areas in Britain.

In today's volatile business environment, success depends on strategic location.

Industry and commerce alike need rapid, easy access to key markets and suppliers, here and abroad. Access provided by major communication arteries: motorways, key rail routes, airports, and seaports.

CNT is England's largest owner of development land in a series of locations designed for business success. Like the six shown here, built from day one with business in mind or transformed by new communication links.

A strategic location isn't the only benefit. They all offer an enthusiastic welcome to new companies seeking growth and expansion. They have established business infrastructures. Their workforces are young, dynamic, forward-looking. They are ideal places to live, in attractive environments, with a wide range of excellent housing, shops, sports and leisure facilities.

However, looking for the right location often takes more time, trouble and money than you can easily afford.

Talk to CNT. We're ready to help you find business success in these locations.

LOCATIONS MADE FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS.

CNT SELLS LAND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS PREMISES IN KEY LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT ENGLAND.
ASK ABOUT: ◆ DEVELOPMENT SITES. ◆ FAST-TRACK PLANNING. ◆ CONFIDENTIAL AND COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE.

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Equities close at best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
641½	507	Allied Domecq	627½	-2	3.7	14.3
408	385	Bass	407½	-2	5.7	16.2
777½	400	Burn Stewart	440	-5	6.2	11.6
1060	864	Diageo	1060		3.1	11.6
621	435½	Glenmorangie A	575		2.1	16.1
627	434	Highland Dist	590½	-7	3.2	18.1
386	270	Highland Distl	372½	-7	3.4	15.6
336	215	Matthew Clark	241½	-1	12.8	7.3
189½	3½	Morrison (W)	6½		0.4	9.8
2518½	1462½	Scot Brewers	1706½	-94	2.2	14.9

BANKS

1521½	918½	ABN-AMRO	1498½	-6½	3.6	17.5
679	532½	Alliance & Leic	675½	-7	3.8	15.7
563	385½	Allied Irish	527½	+10	2.5	15.0
511	36½	Bc Nova	507½	+10	2.5	17
4709½	2975	Bank America	4618½	-69½		
473	291½	Bank Scotland	472½	-10	2.1	14.4
1552½	978½	Barclays	1518½	-5	3.8	14.2
761	517½	Bk of Ireland	755	+11	2.7	16.2
6538½	4106½	Citicorp	6359½	+16½	2.1	
1759½	1258½	Commercial	1686½	+21½	2.8	
852½	559½	Dbt Ind Ban Y	840½	+16½	2.6	
4211½	2709½	Deutsche Bk	4046½	+43½	1.8	
1930	758½	Espirito Santo	1267½	+9½	2.8	
947½	594½	Fgn Bank Y	716	+13	0.6	
3569½	1777½	HSBC	3307	+58½	2.9	16.3
1259½	1241	HSBC HFI	1909½	+61	3.2	15.5
785	696½	Halifax	715½	+5	2.9	15.1
610	443½	Irish Perm	570	+5	2.5	15.8
789	621	Lloyds TSB	773	+9½	2.4	15.6
999½	659½	Nat Aust Bk	982½	-11½	4.8	15.7
896½	663½	Nat Wmstr	855½	-11	4.8	14.5
669	508	Royl Bk Scot	651½	+12½	3.7	14.0
1069½	691	Stand Chartr	867½	+15	3.2	15.1
1164½	2164½	Stfc Fargo	1762½			
403½	315½	Westpac	355½	-8½	3.7	
1773½	384	Woolwich	388	-5	3.2	18.2

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

875½	717½	Bass	848½	-5½	3.6	15.9
68½	43½	Bh Vn Ste Bch	54½		4.1	11.5
209	142½	Burtonwood Brw	152½		4.9	14.7
155½	121½	City Centre Rest	141		2.5	17.7
734½	575½	Compass Gp	642		1.7	23.8
305	250	Elndge P A	261½		2.5	15.5
258½	221	Enterprise Inns	258		3.4	18.7
285	212	Forte Sm A	423½	-5	3.0	14.7
586	413	Greenalls Gp	414	-3½	4.8	10.3
720	642	Gusmore Kng	713½	-2½	3.9	15.3
237½	157½	Gvcovenor Nmrs	168		4.8	
386	218½	Groupe Chez Gee	283½		1.3	17.8
398½	261	Hardy Hanon	265		5.2	11.8
3650	2675	Hsft A	3025		2.6	15.8
78	63	Inn Business	65½		3.1	10.5
351	257	Marchfield	307		2.7	17.1
315½	252	Mcksn Thmp	291½		3.4	10.1
615	502½	Mortons	515	-7½	3.4	13.3
257½	210½	Mst Eng Pnb	253½		3.6	10.2
47½	18½	Pizza Luncuser	27½			
850½	637½	PizzaExpress	759½	-½	0.6	
47½	32½	Ramsdens (H)	34		1.7	31.9
178½	142½	Regent Inn	174	-1½	1.3	
91	70½	Rnkn Grill	91	-1½	0.7	25.4
689	627	Scot & New	727½	-10	3.6	15.6
409	248½	Slvr Group	263½		3.4	16.6
1523	1195	Weetbrr/pear JD	1495	-9½	0.9	
865	738	Whitbread	799	+12½	3.7	14.7
1067½	554	Wolverhmptn D	557	-4	3.8	12.7
377	276½	Yates Brnc	370		1.9	29.6
7021½	615	Young 'A'	697½		2.7	37.4

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

21½	15½	RAF Inds	18			
205	170	Abbott	205			3.7
368½	237½	Allen	358½			2.6
168½	98½	Amec	152	-1		3.5
512	341½	Amey I	440	-3		2.8
655	485	Andrews Sykes	605	+3½		2.1
324½	222½	Ashtead	304½	-½		1.5
48½	29½	Ayerstdel	42			4.5
39½	24½	Bandi	30			4.8
42½	29½	Barcom	36½			2.8
34½	26½	Bernard Dens	29½	+½		4.4
210	154½	Beazer	191½	-½		4.7
368½	259½	Bellway	368½	-3		2.8
19½	16½	Bolmesh	19½			12.9
52½	30	Ben Bailey†	50½	+4		4.0
769½	606	Berkeley Gp	740½	-1		1.6
172	140	Bett Bros	142½	-1		5.0
360	290	Bost (Henry)	357½			2.6
429½	87½	Brannon Hses	120			3.0
77½	52½	Brdcmal Gp	55			3.5
74½	42½	Bt Bldg & Eng	72½			
159½	109½	Bryant	152			5.2
135½	99½	CALA	108½			4.5
17½	7½	Campbll & Arm	4			
98½	52½	Clarke T	86½			7.6
46	46	Costain#	46			
102	71	Countryside	93½			3.3
1089½	885	Crest Nicholson	1039½			3.8
162½	67½	Cussons	96½			5.6
177½	147½	Eve Group	164			3.4
24	15½	Galliford	21			5.0
952½	857½	Gleeson (MJ)	917½			2.2
430	370	Havelock Eurp	372½	-2½		2.1
171½	123	Hawden-Stuart	171½			3.3
21½	16½	Howard Hdgs	18			5.8
348	130½	Jarvis	270½			3.9
279½	182½	Kellett	228	+½		2.7
250½	189½	Kier	205½			4.0
380½	279	Lang (J)	379			3.3
130½	110½	Laing 6 4% Cv Pf	126½			6.5
14½	9	Lovell (TJ)	11½	-½		
210½	162½	Maunders (J)	185½			3.9
167½	112½	McAlpine (A)	137½			6.5
176½	95½	McCarthy & S	134			2.2
85	53½	Mckinney	65			
2359½	1598½	Morgan Sndall	1947½	-3		3.4
306½	234½	Morrison Cons	302½			2.7
144	102	Mowlem (J)	102½			4.3
366	308	Persimmon	2917½			5.2
107½	46	Petersbouret	101½	+2		4.8
126	102	Redrhos	108			3.4
1431½	1318½	Rmc Group	1379½	+16½		3.4
698	530	Bramhurst	673½			4.2
37	13½	Bucknd Gp	19			5.0
119½	99½	Rsl Fillings	113½			4.7
360	301	Cullens	336			

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

492½	327½	Amalgamtd	400		1.6	21.1
226	203	Ascot Hldgs	208½		2.7	39.8
917	703	Bolton Hld	7021½	-6½	3.2	17.1
959	680	BTR†	2937½	-6½	3.2	18.1
697½	463	BAT†	555	+10½	6.1	11.5
1078	494	Brierley Inv	533½	+½	8.9	8.7
666	152	Coutinsun	643		4.4	15.7
2298½	1974½	Cookil	2113½		3.6	18.1
4021½	2551	DCC	3807½	-1	2.3	14.2
3121½	2424½	Gallaher	2795½	+1	4.9	8.4
111½	81½	Glenmorgan Hdg	100	+½	5.8	11.2
1484½	1074½	Hanson Trust	1329	+3	5.8	13.2
667½	423½	Hutch Whamp	556	+3½	6.9	11.1
638½	361	Imperial Tob	564	+1½	5.3	11.2
527½	331	Jardine Math	464½	+4½	3.3	17.8
1589½	1106	Jardine Strg	1379		2.2	17.3
1751½	1414½	Midland Resrd	1569		5.4	12.6
497½	296½	Powell Duffryn	432	+4½	7.2	12.1
191	102½	Rmc	119	-1½	0.7	25.4
1689	627	Scot & New	727½	+10	3.6	15.6
409	248½	Slvr Group	263½		3.4	16.6
1523	1195	Westmr/pear JD	1495	-9½	0.9	
865	738	Whitbread	799	+12½	3.7	14.7
1067½	554	Wolverhmptn D	557	-4	3.8	12.7
377	276½	Yates Brnc	370		1.9	29.6
7021½	615	Young 'A'	697½		2.7	37.4

ELECTRICITY

314½	184½	Bs Energy	306	+2	5.8	593
666	467½	Energy Group	643½	-½	4.7	11.7
290	192	National Grid	282½	-4	4.9	11.6
5089½	4601	National Power	5571½	+7	5.7	10.6
477	352½	Nthn Ireland†	476	+½	5.5	21.7
797½	565½	PowerGen	768½	-3	4.1	12.4
4606½	3194½	Hydro-Electr	444	+4	4.5	10.6
473½	3311	Scottish Power†	451	+1	5.1	11.8
472½	3731	Southern Elect	455½	+2½	5.9	12.5

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

403½	379½	Acal	379½		3.1	12.7
2407½	145½	Acorn	147½			
562½	365	Admiralt	500		0.6	37.6
48½	33½	Aden	35½		4.3	9.2
164½	118	Actech	128	-1	1.8	15.0
626	505	Arlan#	556		0.9	17.7
383½	139½	BICC	162½	+15	9.9	14.7
173	81	Bowtes, Hunter	87½		15.3	
78	53	Bristcom	63		0.6	20.3
382½	306	Bsck	355	-10	0.9	7.4
457½	392½	Bowthorpe	398	-½	3.3	15.8
146	9	Bulgin A	13		7.4	15.5
1577½	1227½	CML Micro	1449½	-5	5.3	16.0
39½	22½	Channel Hldgs	34½	+1	6.0	11.9
436	220	Dnscr†	257½		0.8	27.3
5071½	3316½	Electrocm 'B'	4680½	+37½	2.2	25.8
27½	19½	Exmss	20½		2.4	13.7
2921½	1771½	Exmss 'B'	2921½	+60	0.7	
76½	27½	Eurocpy	31½		10.7	48
541	388	Eurotherm	385	+6	2.9	15.8
645	488	Fenny Group	597½	+1	6.8	10.0
447½	297½	Filtronic Comt	444	+3	0.4	68.4
32	19½	Forward Tech	20		7.8	
414	327½	GEC†	387	-4	4.2	21.1
269½	139½	Gaskety	266		1.5	20.1
1169½	1109½	Ind Control	1137½	+1	8.0	12.1
116	12	Instelect	14		8.0	52.0
116	93½	Kode	100½	+2	3.1	8.4
61½	37½	LPA Ind	59½		4.3	16.9
338	202½	Marwan Sec	314	+5½	3.9	10.7
304	11	Microvisc	15	+½	7.3	
425	425	Mktrl	425			
242	145	Network Tech	158½		0.6	
362	272	Oxford Instr	350½		1.5	17.3
41½	25½	Pace Micro	34½	-½	6.4	9.3
99	29½	Peek	35½	+2	9.5	17.8
5168½	3308½	Philips Lmp nv	4856½	+35	1.0	
185½	142½	Plessey	162½		5.0	9.5
2369½	2079	Psion	2279		0.0	30.1
1098½	2089½	Pressac	2591		1.9	20.7
67½	42½	Rotch Wilsnp	556	+3½	6.9	11.1
638½	361	Imperial Tob	564	+1½	5.3	11.2
527½	331	Jardine Math	464½	+4½	3.3	17.8
1589½	1106	Jardine Strg	1379		2.2	17.3
1751½	1414½	Midland Resrd	1569		5.4	12.6
497½	296½	Powell Duffryn	432	+4½	7.2	12.1
191	102½	Rmc	119	-1½	0.7	25.4
1689	627	Scot & New	727½	+10	3.6	15.6
409	248½	Slvr Group	263½		3.4	16.6
1523	1195	Westmr/pear JD	1495	-9½	0.9	
865	738	Whitbread	799	+12½	3.7	14.7
1067½	554	Wolverhmptn D	557	-4	3.8	12.7
377	276½	Yates Brnc	370		1.9	29.6
7021½	615	Young 'A'	697½		2.7	37.4

DISTRIBUTORS

702½	149½	Actnn Cp Sols	185½	+½	0.7	21.3
398	275	Adam & Harvey	397½		7.0	5.7
115	82	Alexanders	104		1.2	
90	51½	Applecrsstf	88		8.8	
3½	1½	Ass Br Ena	2			
550	486	BCS Group	490		4.3	19.5
16½	13½	Bamns Powis	15		3.0	7.4
545	436½	Bryand A	517½		3.3	14.8
698	530	Brammont	673½		4.2	
37	13½	Bucknd Gp	19		5.0	8.3
119½	99½	Bsl Fillings	113½		4.7	11.3
360	301	Cullens	336			

ENGINEERING

562½	370	Allnt	360		2.4	15.0
40	19½	ASW	34½	-1		
378	228	Akamasc	290		3.7	11.5
149	101	Alers	133½		3.0	24.0
1239½	1139½	Alph & Lacyr	1165½		6.5	9.8
1099½	95½	Aptchee Metals	102½		6.7	5.6
437½	314	BBA†	414½	-3	2.1	20.8
1356½	78½	BSN	80½		10.4	6.6
95	54½	Babcock	94½		1.6	
7½	7½	Bailey (CH)	7½			5.9
1013	75	Barnes (Charles)	101	-3	3.6	12.0
44½	38½	Beaufort	39½		3.4	13.8
83½	32½	Benson Group	43½		4.0	11.1
157½	124	Benstord Ind	150½		4.4	12.9
969½	680	Bodycote	947½		1.1	25.3
61½	37½	Booth Inds	45½			
39½	18	Bosswyr	19½	-½	5.8	7.3
1724	1090	Brdn & Gen	1624		3.7	20.4
1989½	211	JBD W'r	269½	-2	3.6	96
1359½	1191½	Fenbury Undert	1309½	+½	6.7	12.6
998½	729	Gen Accident	992½	+12	4.5	6.8
311½	257	Gkn	308½		4.0	11.6
1427½	84½	Hazlb C E	141½		1.3	9.2
383	271½	Hibernian E	393	+3	2.9	9.8
300½	115	Hiscox	177½	-1½	2.1	15.3
137½	112	Hscon Select	114		9.8	8.4
1960½	1470	Hunting	1640½		1.0	16.1
338½	267	Irish Lnc	315½		4.8	10.1
206	162½	Jardine Lyd Th	169½		3.1	14.9
113	98	Nth Canal	98		3.4	28.0
135	100½	Compact Ferr	125		5.4	9.4
485	363	Legal & Gen	459½	-3½	3.2	11.8
1978½	1453½	Lloyds Lnbt	1775		2.4	
1369½	1239½	Lmtd	1326	-6	6.0	7.9
4906½	3069½	Marsh Mclnn	4880½	-16½	2.5	24.9
135	99	Mashcon	97		15.1	6.8
1814½	1207	Nelson Hurst	1811		5.9	16.6
111	82½	New London Cap†	83		9.0	12.2
357½	311½	Nmarch Unsh	330	-6	4.0	17.1
911½	693	Oldnum	789½	-1	1.7	
1387½	885	Qwtrl	1135		1.7	58.0
383	271½	Rbertsn E	393	+3	2.9	9.8
679½	497½	Prudsellstf	633	+5½	3.3	14.7
187	151	PWS	18		4.5	7.8
561	426½	Royal & Sun All	530½	-6½	4.6	14.8
1439½	965½	St James Place†	1435½	-2	1.6	21.5
144	114½	Sedgwick	139½		3.1	6.0
33½	21½	Sterl Bartlff	29½	-½	7.6	
420½	280½	Sun Life & P	406	-3	3.3	23.0
1426	1107	Syndicate Cap	1095		11.1	
547½	423	Utd Assurance	457½	+6	4.6	13.5
1377½	1065	Wellington	1155½		5.1	7.8
164½	118½	Wstfld Cornwell	124	-1	6.8	12.6
29	10½	Wlmstrsn	11		6.6	

INSURANCE

3350	2246½	Am Gen	3240½	-31½	2.7	
120	96	Angerstein	99½		12.8	
259	170	Atlas	196		3.9	12.7
22½	22½	Armour	23		5.6	20.6
182½	102½	BLP Group†	168½	-½	4.5	6.3
78½	48½	Britton Bureau	78	-½	3.8	25.4
105	57½	Black Arrow†	89½		6.6	6.9
387½	274½	Black (Peter)	354	-2	2.2	
194½	160½	Cornwell Pfd Sp	163½		10	19.9
42½	22½	Creighton Nt	25½			
120	45	Dawtrees	112½	+½	6.7	
2364½	1421	Dawgo Group	1825½		3.3	12.4
1454½	1121½	Eclipse (Bladds)	1267		3.2	12.3
46	26	Elliot	34	-1	4.5	6.2
356	140	Gaskell†	310		2.3	10.5
328	260	HKP Ind	285		2.1	12.7
574	428	Hamden (T)	565		3.3	15.3
193½	103½	Kcrwood App	126½		3.2	50.4
12	7½	Lennoxcert	11		11	22.6
172½	114½	McBride	167		5.4	
157½	109½	Mayborn	176½		5.8	9.3
575	455	Minerva	565½		4.0	13.0
323	240	Paterson Zch	440		5.4	10.9
478	372	Paterson Zch A	373½		6.3	9.2
268	200	Pilkgt	268½		3.6	13.5
356	195	Pilc A Vtg†	303		3.3	
144½	99½	Hardwood Fdst	144	+½	6.9	11.2
3065	1561	Hillsdown	2963	+3	7.8	10.1
77½	38½	RJ Group	55½	+10½	11.1	12.1
420	368	Linton Park	395½	-2½	3.6	13.2
142	93	Mashtows (B)	103½		5.2	9.8
215	177½	Nichols (VT)	207½		4.4	11.1
2317½	1884½	Ntnn Forest	2137	+6½	5.0	14.9
37½	13	Nthmptn Pr	15½	+½	4.6	10.6
1094½	771	Paramount Foodst	85		7.5	9.7
105	48	Pascoe's	48½			
98½	68½	Perkins Foods	93½		5.6	10.1
152½	47½	Plant & Gen	113½	-5½	5.9	
129½	75½	Sandy Farms	97½	+10	6.8	8.7
41½	25½	Sims Food	32			3.6
485	398½	Tate & Lyle	477½		5.0	13.5
191½	127½	Tenth†	136		5.2	19.1
547	414	Unigate	540½	-5½	4.6	13.8
1825½	1351	Watmoor Pr	1795½	+29½	2.3	16.5
11489	9943½	Unilever (NV)	11330½	+96½	1.6	16.5
253½	194½	Utd Biscuits†	208	+2	6.2	15.5
37½	29½	WT Foods	36½		5.1	15.9
19½	8½	Yorkshire Food	10½		10.5	

HEALTHCARE

2175	1100	Amersham	2160	+2½	1.3	32.6
148	116½	Assoc Nursg	139½		3.3	17.2
622½	477½	Biogentr	607½	-2½	2.5	20.5
1432½	447½	Blackmore Ind	457½	+17½		
140	95½	Care First	97		5.2	
139½	96	Care UK	118	-½	1.7	15.9
114½	88½	Celtec	98½	+1½		
415	356½	Chemexpertz H	410½		1.5	
31	24½	CrestaCare	27		4.5	12.8
28½	7½	Environmed	8½			
167½	105½	Ferraris Group	127½	-1	2.9	12.5
173½	117½	Gntdsborough	170½		3.2	15.7
215	139	Hamtgn Tec	191		2.7	17.6
350	167½	Intermolec Tech	209			
86	60	Interstate Gp	73½		6.1	11.8
426½	330	Isotron	415		1.9	
182	155	Low Ind	168	+2	2.1	23.1
154½	122½	Rector Hlth†	166		2.9	20.3
30	5½	Protec Health	9			
319½	234½	Schiff	288		3.5	18.1
500½	382½	Selon Health	451½	-3	2.4	16.4
919	123	Shield Diag	632½			
197½	162½	Smith & Nephw	183½		3.8	17.4
37½	7½	Tarmac	32½		4.1	10.4
269½	243½	UniChem†	266½	-1½	4.3	20.5
302½	236½	West Hthcaret	276	-1	3.0	16.2

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

262½	235½	Abrpnng	238½		3.4	13.4
259	170	Alba	196		3.9	12.7
23½	22½	Armour	23		5.6	20.6
182½	102½	BLP Group†	168½	-½	4.5	6.3
78½	48½	Britton Bureau	78	-½	3.8	25.4
105	57½	Black Arrow†	89½		6.6	6.9
387½	274½	Black (Peter)	354	-2	2.2	
194½	160½	Cornwell Pfd Sp	163½		10	19.9
42½	22½	Creighton Nt	25½			
120	45	Dawtrees	112½	+½	6.7	
2364½	1421	Dawgo Group	1825½		3.3	12.4
1454½	1121½	Eclipse (Bladds)	1267		3.2	12.3
46	26	Elliot	34	-1	4.5	6.2
356	140	Gaskell†	310		2.3	10.5
328	260	HKP Ind	285		2.1	12.7
574	428	Hamden (T)	565		3.3	15.3
193½	103½	Kcrwood App	126½		3.2	50.4
12	7½	Lennoxcert	11		11	22.6
172½	114½	McBride	167		5.4	
157½	109½	Mayborn	176½		5.8	9.3
575	455	Minerva	565½		4.0	13.0
323	240	Paterson Zch	440		5.4	10.9
478	372	Paterson Zch A	373½		6.3	9.2
268	200	Pilkgt	268½		3.6	13.5
356	195	Pilc A Vtg†	303		3.3	
144½	99½	Hardwood Fdst	144	+½	6.9	11.2
3065	1561	Hillsdown	2963	+3	7.8	10.1
77½	38½	RJ Group	55½	+10½	11.1	12.1
420	368	Linton Park	395½	-2½	3.6	13.2
142	93	Mashtows (B)	103½		5.2	9.8
215	177½	Nichols (VT)	207½		4.4	11.1
2317½	1884½	Ntnn Forest	2137	+6½	5.0	14.9
37½	13	Nthmptn Pr	15½	+½	4.6	10.6
1094½	771	Paramount Foodst	85		7.5	9.7
105	48	Pascoe's	48½			
98½	68½	Perkins Foods	93½		5.6	10.1
152½	47½	Plant & Gen	113½	-5½	5.9	
129½	75½	Sandy Farms	97½	+10	6.8	8.7
41½	25½	Sims Food	32			3.6
485	398½	Tate & Lyle	477½		5.0	13.5
191½	127½	Tenth†	136		5.2	19.1
547	414	Unigate	540½	-5½	4.6	13.8
1825½	1351	Watmoor Pr	1795½	+29½	2.3	16.5
11489	9943½	Unilever (NV)	11330½	+96½	1.6	16.5
253½	194½	Utd Biscuits†	208	+2	6.2	15.5
37½	29½	WT Foods	36½		5.1	15.9
19½	8½	Yorkshire Food	10½		10.5	

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

538½	457½	3i	516½	+½	2.2	33.4
2331½	1439	Aberdn New Dawn	1625½	-1½	1.3	65.9
253	208½	Aberdnn Smlr	230	+1	1.2	30.2
155	107	Aberdnn Sm Wts	113	+1		
88½	71	Abrdnst Emerg	78½		0.6	
86	66½	Abrdnst High Inc	77½		10.6	10.3
2665	2132½	Alliance	2486	-½	2.9	41.7
613½	471½	Anglo A. Dsscs	581½	+½	2.0	61.6
98½	80	Asct Opposs	90		0.3	
99	69	Baillie Gifford 2M	74	+½		
2675	2035	Bankers	2509½	+7	2.5	49.1
1209½	88	Barng Em Ea	1152½	+½		
1220	980	Barng Tribne	1167	-½	2.1	52.0
1117	988½	Br Assets	1151½	-½	5.1	28.1
1330½	107	Br Empire Sec	1159½	-½	4.1	
89½	65	Brnhtsn	79		5.0	49.5
2419½	1880	Brnner	2191½	-6½	2.8	14.4
1136	903	BCW Conv	1029½	+½	2.3	14.4
2425	1880	Brtsh Assets	2225½	+½	2.0	38.7
1288½	1180½	Brtsh Inv	1269½	-2½	3.6	96
1359½	1191½	Fostbury Undert	1309½	+½	6.7	12.6
998½	729	Gen Accident	992½	+12	4.5

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373
Gilt & Fixed Int: 139.50 148.00† + 0.10 6.16
High Inc Equity: 216.20 231.20 – 1.30 4.26
Worldwide Bond: 271.40 287.70† – 0.30 3.44
American Growth: 532.90 569.20 – 5.50 0.29
Asian Pacific: 312.50 334.20 + 0.60 0.21
Assets & Earnings: 243.20 260.00 – 2.50 2.50
Euro Capital Acc: 241.90 265.10 – 0.15 0.99
Extra Inc: 43.48 46.26† + 0.15 8.99
General: 308.90 328.60† – 2.20 2.98
Global Opps: 43.89 46.70† + 0.32 0.36
Japan: 94.29 100.80 + 2.30 .
Managed Inc: 51.97 55.29† – 0.16 4.07
MicroInt'l: 191.50 204.80 – 0.40 1.08
US Emerging Cos: 228.80 244.70 – 2.50 .
Ethical: 96.77 93.21 . 1.98
International: 154.40 164.30 – 0.50 0.53
Dividend & Growth: 79.69 84.78 – 0.44 4.17
Special Growth & Sec: 77.96 83.19 – 0.08 2.52
Latin American: 98.37 104.68† – 0.90 0.64
Capital Reserve: 151.90 151.90 . 4.61

ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0141 275 6500
M&P UK Growth: 180.70 117.70 + 0.20 2.01
Equity Income #: 152.60 162.30† + 0.10 3.72
Extra Income #: 292.10 310.50† – 0.40 6.53
Smaller Cos: 104.60 111.20† . 2.99
International: 132.70 143.70 + 0.40 1.27

ABERDEEN UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 569
American: 80.98 84.19 – 0.51 .
Emerging Mkts: 77.70 80.91 + 0.07 0.13
European: 174.24 186.43 – 0.86 .
Extra Income #: 95.73 98.63† – 0.04 5.22
Far East Inc Fd: 112.89 118.41 – 0.35 0.74
Fixed Interest #: 97.19 98.99† – 0.05 3.18
Fund Inv Pol #: 162.40 167.79 – 0.61 3.56
Japan: 172.82 179.95† + 1.42 .
Latin American: 82.22 86.79† – 0.80 .
Pacific: 75.35 78.09 + 0.05 0.12
Property: 96.11 99.32 + 0.13 1.60
UK Emerging Cos: 68.78 74.32 + 0.14 0.09
UK Growth: 67.86 70.67 + 0.32 1.33
Aber World Pref #: 93.02 97.90 – 0.43 2.56
Ethical: 94.78 98.16 + 0.23 1.04
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #: 50.56 50.56† – 0.01 6.88

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733
UK Small Co.: 2462.00 2589.00 . .

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5868
Retail Property #: 109.20 116.10 . 4.89

ALLCHURCHES GN MGMT SVS LTD
01453 305 656
Smith Inc Inc: 105.22 111.64† + 0.16 1.87
Income Builder Inc: 99.29 101.37 + 0.34 3.46

For Hill Samuel see Investmark

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01293 525 911
Cheriton Dist Fees: 136.70 142.00 . .
Foxcotte Fund Fees: 80.42 83.55 . .

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242
America: 464.10 493.60† – 4.10 .
Bond: 124.60 130.90 . 6.43
Gnl Small Co.: 115.70 123.10 + 0.10 1.90
Europe: 374.80 398.30 + 2.20 .
Euro Small Cos: 134.80 143.40 + 1.60 0.31
High Income: 28.21 72.50† + 0.20 0.19
Income: 404.90 430.60† + 0.60 4.01
Japan: 316.90 335.80 +10.80 .
Latin American: 122.90 130.70 – 1.10 .
Pacific: 112.60 119.80 – 0.60 0.80
UK Small Cos: 63.56 66.55 – 0.04 1.29
Japan Fd: 559.50 572.30 +11.50 .
Mngd Fd: 245.00 260.20 + 0.70 2.43

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 489 8573
Bnt & Orgnc: 442.40 467.90 . 0.75
Capital Growth: 162.80 172.20 . 2.43
Irlande Opps: 248.40 262.70 . 0.83

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 542 4000
Balanced Trust:
Growth & Inc Inc: 517.60 550.60 – 2.70 1.52
European Ed Inc: 96.59 103.70 + 0.10 0.98
Exempt: 103.00 109.60 – 0.50 2.15
50U: 511.90 550.50† + 1.00 1.99
General: 382.60 417.60† – 2.10 1.64
Property: 262.60 283.10 . 5.99
Tracker: 278.70 296.50 – 1.50 1.61
Income Trusts:
Cash Inc: 101.20 101.20 . 6.36
Distribution #: 126.30 126.90† – 0.40 5.34
Extra Income #: 168.20 173.40 – 0.80 4.17
Gnl & Fxd Int: 62.34 64.23† – 0.01 7.23
Income #: 690.50 738.70 – 3.70 4.13
Income Builder #: 79.34 84.50† – 0.31 4.25
Intl Income: 86.29 91.80 – 0.39 1.36
Growth Trusts - UK
Capital: 175.10 186.30† – 1.00 1.51
FTSE 100: 138.80 136.70 – 1.00 2.63
Smlr Cos Inc: 99.99 63.99 + 0.06 2.28
UK Growth: 502.50 537.30 – 2.60 1.63
Growth Trusts - Overseas
America: 234.80 248.10 – 2.10 0.09
F East Exnh Acc: 267.40 284.50 + 1.70 0.71
Far East Exnh: 158.40 168.50 + 1.00 0.71
Euro Gnth Inc: 239.90 253.40† – 1.70 0.72
-do- Accum: 262.30 277.50 – 1.60 0.72
Japan: 120.90 127.80 + 3.50 .
-do- Accum: 122.30 129.30 + 3.50 .
Japan Spec Sit: 56.41 59.75 + 1.37 .
Worldwide: 226.00 239.90 – 0.20 0.74

BARING FUND MANGERS LTD
0171 214 1000
American Growth: 181.90 192.00 – 1.50 .
Amer Smlr Cos: 188.00 200.00 – 1.80 .
Eastern: 259.00 277.90 + 0.60 0.30
Equity Income #: 120.80 128.90 + 0.50 4.00
European Growth: 262.60 273.30 + 3.30 0.80
Europe: 454.50 484.90† + 1.70 0.80
German Growth: 110.10 118.80 – 0.10 0.40
Global Bond: 73.82 77.65 – 0.06 4.89
Global Growth: 177.60 188.40 . 0.10
Japan Growth: 154.20 163.60 – 2.50 .
Japan Smaller: 106.90 112.00 – 2.10 .
Mdrd Trust: 56.09 59.11 – 0.02 .
Portfolio: 173.90 183.10† – 0.60 2.00
-do- Accum: 225.80 237.60 + 1.30 2.00
UK Growth: 129.70 138.30 – 0.50 3.00
UK Smaller Cos: 114.50 121.50 – 0.70 1.00
Select Managers: 98.39 105.30 – 0.70 1.00

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 250 3000
Intl Cash Port Inc: 109.20 116.20 . .
Special Opps Inc: 24.17 29.90† . .

BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD
0141 223 6020
Balanced Growth: 177.47 184.86 – 3.71 1.10
-do- Accum: 201.63 216.35 – 4.34 1.10
Smaller Cos: 116.96 124.23 – 0.88 0.39
Higher Yield #: 97.31 70.11 – 1.21 5.74
American Gth Inc: 134.42 143.56† – 0.11 .
European Growth: 204.45 217.97† – 1.39 .
-do- Accum: 204.63 218.53 – 1.45 .
Mngd Portfolio Inc: 62.82 65.54† – 0.19 1.27
-do- Accum: 65.94 68.68 – 0.20 1.27
Int Spec Opps: 208.33 217.01 – 1.62 .
Pacific Gth: 148.13 155.97 – 1.14 .
Balanced Inc: 69.44 73.88 + 0.29 2.92
Japan Acc: 41.03 43.65 + 1.47 .
Pac Basin Acc: 374.40 398.40 – 1.50 1.27

BRUNSWICK UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7215
Short Dated Gilt: 85.88 86.72 + 0.02 6.27

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5060
Envsn: 209.50 220.50 – 3.10 1.62
UK Growth: 261.40 275.00† – 1.30 1.61
UK Income: 179.70 189.20 – 0.70 3.68

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 822 100
Can Gen Dist: 279.50 293.00 – 0.80 1.35
-do- Income Dist: 152.40 161.50 + 0.10 3.10
-do- Accum: 507.00 537.30 + 0.70 3.10
Gilt & Fxd Int: 92.60 61.95† + 0.07 6.09
Growth Units: 324.30 342.30† + 0.90 1.51
Bond: 184.40 193.90† . 6.00
Intl Growth: 255.10 271.40 – 1.50 0.77
North American: 321.10 344.10 – 3.60 .
Far East: 366.30 384.80 + 0.60 0.68
UK Smaller Cos: 248.40 265.70 + 0.70 1.08
European: 118.10 125.50† + 0.50 0.40
Japanese Growth: 37.87 40.14 – 1.01 .
High Income: 263.70 281.60† . 3.61

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455
American & Gen: 200.50 207.10† – 3.00 .
European Inc: 122.20 129.50† + 0.60 0.10
Smaller Cos (-I): 109.70 116.80† + 0.20 1.77
Growth: 662.30 704.60† + 1.30 1.63
Income & Growth #: 557.10 592.70† + 1.40 4.25
-do- Accum #: 670.20 925.80 + 2.10 4.32
Japan & Gen: 60.04 63.62 – 2.38 .
Hallmark Gnth: 1473.00 1533.00 + 7.00 1.50
-do- Accum: 1841.00 1919.00 + 9.00 1.50
Special Sits: 152.60 162.40 – 0.30 1.61
High Yield: 1614.00 1677.00 – 4.00 3.61

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708
Cazenove Portfolio: 114.73 122.17 + 0.06 2.29
American Portfolio: 162.21 172.48 + 0.57 0.65
European Portfolio: 167.17 178.34 + 2.11 0.39
High Income: 55.03 57.91 + 0.02 6.60
Japanese Portfolio: 57.61 61.09† + 1.48 .
Pacific Portfolio: 149.69 160.96 0.71 0.75
UK Equity: 113.63 121.44 + 0.07 2.75
UK Equity & Bd: 66.16 70.10 + 0.13 5.05
UK Smlr Cos: 53.26 56.97† – 0.03 1.69

CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS
0171 588 1815
Inv Fd Inc: 907.36 941.28 . 3.69
Inv Fd Acc: 948.41 983.75 . .

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Fxd Int Sec Inc:	162.82	163.18	.	8.76
Fxd Int Sec Acc:	169.90	170.58	.	.

CGNF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815
Investment Inc: 912.16 925.94 . 3.76
Investment Acc: 4344.24 4409.90 . .
Fixed Int Inc: 133.53 134.87 . 8.65
Fixed Int Acc: 259.62 260.86 . .

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 956 8900
Beckmen Intl: 94.52 99.44 – 0.44 5.04
Back Bio-Tech: 45.06 48.84 . .
Acorn Ethical Tst: 220.53 231.58 . 0.40
City Fin Assets: 90.55 95.09 . 1.78
City Fin Intl: 95.76 100.55 – 0.05 0.06
Fixed Mat Cap: 358.54 376.30 . 1.64
Buckley Wrld Gth: 157.52 166.97† + 0.37 .
Shire Utilities: 78.06 79.84 + 0.31 4.35

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300
Sovereign Markets: 63.66 67.56 – 0.05 .

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 775 233
American Gnth: 101.31 107.78 – 0.41 .
Dragon Growth: 65.15 69.67 + 0.22 0.60
Equity High Inc: 110.46 116.91† + 0.35 3.53
-do- Accum: 165.86 175.51 + 0.35 3.53
Euro Income Inc: 29.52 30.91 + 0.01 6.34
European Gnth: 83.45 88.31 + 0.50 0.06
Evergreen: 36.53 38.66 + 0.10 .
Extra Income: 130.48 137.71 + 0.37 2.52
Japan Growth: 40.95 43.56 + 1.37 .
Managed Equity: 77.61 82.12 + 0.29 1.98
Pacific Gnth: 41.23 43.65 + 0.01 1.42
-do- Accum: 44.18 46.76 + 0.02 1.42
Retirement Inc #: 32.98 35.09 + 0.05 5.38
Special Sits: 54.15 58.23 + 0.01 3.09
UK & Overseas: 71.53 76.12 + 0.21 0.54

COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD
01634 896 000
Balanced: 80.85 84.21† + 0.08 3.67
Capital: 99.54 103.56† + 0.04 2.12
High Income: 55.78 58.07† + 0.01 6.39
Tst 50: 71.29 74.25† + 0.09 2.17

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)
Income Funds:
Equity Inc: 221.59 230.85 + 0.76 4.18
Long Gilt: 48.41 51.44 + 0.13 5.38
Monthly Inc Plus: 56.44 58.80 + 0.04 7.62
Preference Share: 54.31 56.58 + 0.01 6.89
Balanced Funds
High Yield: 160.22 166.91 + 0.53 5.37
Managed Fund: 88.29 91.98 + 0.23 2.46
UK Growth Funds
Smaller Cos: 52.22 54.40 – 0.06 1.56
-do- Accum: 63.45 65.06 – 0.08 1.56
UK & General: 120.98 126.03 + 0.49 2.23
-do- Accum: 160.38 167.08 + 0.60 2.23
UK Growth: 239.18 249.17 + 0.52 1.56
International Growth Funds
Europe Growth: 271.65 283.00 + 1.53 0.47
Far Eastern Gth: 126.16 131.43 + 1.24 0.21
Global Bond: 75.10 78.24 – 0.08 6.57
Japan Growth: 104.78 109.17 + 2.91 .
North Amer Gnth: 307.23 320.06 – 3.04 .
Oriental Growth: 78.33 81.60 + 0.03 0.60
Worldwide Growth: 84.58 88.11 + 0.30 0.29
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)
Deposit Fund: 93.54 93.54 + 0.01 6.02
Remuneration Fund: 163.91 170.55 + 0.18 1.95
Quaifer Fund: 178.00 189.36† + 0.96 1.67

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5866
Consistent UT: 39.97 42.72† . 2.90

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 398
Growth: 198.20 210.90 + 0.10 1.70
Income: 84.61 90.01 + 0.07 3.82
European: 96.29 102.44 + 0.05 0.14
Recovery: 193.60 206.00 + 0.40 2.00

CO-OP PERSON FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 283 9494
Equity Dist: 1167.10 1185.20 . 3.03

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 695 370
European Inc: 97.77 93.18 – 0.24 0.34
Fellowship Tst: 117.00 124.40 + 0.50 1.09
Income #: 333.50 354.70 + 0.80 3.88
-do- Accum #: 807.00 864.60 + 2.10 3.88
Smaller Cos: 230.80 245.50 + 0.40 0.75
-do- Accum: 289.30 306.70 + 0.50 0.75
Gth Portfolio: 114.60 121.90† + 0.30 1.30
High Inc Pref #: 97.38 103.70 + 0.30 4.03

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 470 1634
Global Sm Cos: 1949.00 1970.90 . 0.52
UK Small Cos: 2268.00 2356.00 . 2.91

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 377 8819
Disc Inc: 249.20 256.90 . .

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01242 577 565
Ukr Balanced Inc: 208.40 221.70 – 1.10 1.46
Ukr High Inc Inc: 233.10 237.30 – 1.30 3
-do- Accum: 311.00 330.80 – 1.70 3
Ukr Prof & Fl Inc: 64.25 68.18 + 0.04 5.43
Envnmnt Opps: 125.40 133.30 + 0.40 0.75
Ukr Smlr Cos: 74.59 79.35† – 0.30 0.65
Extra Income Inc: 53.69 57.08† – 0.06 6.06

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 090 525
Convertibles #: 24.57 26.11† + 0.07 5.36
Enterprise: 121.10 128.40 + 0.20 1.95
Equity Income #: 168.80 180.40† + 0.50 3.59
European: 77.69 82.07 + 0.30 .
Financial: 69.88 74.25† + 0.05 1.35
Growth & Inc #: 345.88 368.50† + 1.10 2.31
High Dist #: 217.30 230.90 + 0.70 3.68
International: 466.00 495.10 + 1.40 0.20
Inc Cap Inc: 127.50 136.10 + 0.20 1.98
Latin American: 43.00 45.71† – 0.31 .
Mngd Gwth Port: 98.76 103.20 + 1.00 4.84
Pacific: 84.14 89.48 + 0.45 .
Prof High Inc: 25.19 26.76 + 0.01 6.73
Tokyo: 185.00 195.50† + 5.60 .
Ukr Smaller Cos: 252.50 268.30 + 1.40 1.12
Japan Sm Cos: 298.50 317.00 + 9.50 .
Nth Amer: 557.40 589.50 – 2.80 0.90
Ukr Inc & Gth: 314.50 335.50 + 1.10 2.21

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 0242
Bth Director Dlgs: 124.61 132.71 + 1.38 0.97
Growth Acc: 314.90 334.95 + 4.11 0.20
Income: 622.08 663.41 + 4.30 5.61

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 373 7261
Endurance Fd: 257.30 273.70 . 0.91

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Dlg 01277 695 366 Admin/Mail 01277 695 350
Euro Smlr Cos: 178.10 189.00 + 0.40 .
High Income: 23.72 25.19† + 0.10 8.92
Japan Smlr Cos: 14.26 15.13 – 0.25 .
US Smaller Cos: 542.50 576.50 – 1.90 .

FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Enq 0171 330 8500 Dealing 0345 775611
American Growth: 105.10 111.40 – 0.60 .
-do- Accum: 105.10 111.40 – 0.60 .
Amer Smlr Cos: 828.90 881.00† – 0.90 .
-do- Accum: 845.80 900.00† – 7.20 .
Capital Tst: 406.40 432.00† – 0.30 1.26
-do- Accum: 604.00 643.00† + 0.30 1.26
Cmdl Smlr Cos: 68.24 72.64 – 0.02 1.03
-do- Accum: 73.53 77.96 . 1.03
Convertible: 148.10 156.60 + 0.10 5.38
-do- Accum: 337.60 359.40 + 0.30 5.38
Emerging Markets: 77.67 82.98 – 0.21 0.54
-do- Accum: 78.29 83.64 – 0.22 0.54
European: 195.00 206.40 + 1.00 0.40
-do- Accum: 207.40 219.50 + 1.10 0.40
Extra Income: 468.00 497.90 + 1.80 3.98
-do- Accum: 771.00 820.30 – 3.00 3.98
Financial: 236.50 251.60 + 0.80 0.94
-do- Accum: 253.40 269.60 + 1.00 0.94
Gilt Trust: 84.69 88.78 + 0.05 7.04
-do- Accum: 103.76 108.98 + 0.10 7.04
Health Fund Inc: 304.90 325.80 – 2.10 .
-do- Accum: 304.90 325.80 – 2.10 .
Income & Growth: 273.30 290.70 + 0.90 3.54
-do- Accum: 347.20 475.70 + 1.40 3.54
Intl Growth: 494.10 525.60 + 0.80 .
-do- Accum: 548.70 583.50 + 0.70 .
Japan & Gen: 154.20 163.60 + 5.10 .
-do- Accum: 155.70 165.20 + 5.10 .
Monthly Inc #: 236.60 251.70† + 0.90 4.26
-do- Accum #: 344.80 362.40† + 0.90 4.26
Managed Port Inc: 137.00 144.20 – 1.40 1.24
-do- Accum: 150.60 158.50 – 1.80 1.24
Quarterly Income #: 64.40 68.85† – 0.13 5.07
-do- Accum #: 77.39 83.75† + 0.16 5.07
Recovery: 354.30 378.90 – 0.50 .
-do- Accum: 418.30 447.40 – 0.40 .
UK Growth: 78.01 82.99 + 0.27 1.79
-do- Accum: 86.19 91.69 + 0.28 1.79

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FP Equity Dist:	951.10	987.80	– 3.90	1.97
-do- Accum:	1244.00	1426.00	– 7.00	1.97
FP Euro Gth:	383.00	409.50	– 3.00	.
-do- Accum:	419.80	447.50	– 3.30	.
FP Intl Bond:	57.58	60.93†	– 0.21	3.98
FP Intl Gth Dist:	44.99	47.98	– 0.10	.
-do- Accum:	66.09	70.48	– 0.14	.
FP Pac Basin Acc:	215.20	229.50	+ 1.90	.
FP Income #:	68.66	73.55	– 0.31	4.41
-do- Accum #:	254.20	286.60	– 1.10	4.41
FP Jap Smlr Cos:	206.50	220.20	+ 2.50	.
FP Monthly Dist #:	84.07	88.67†	– 0.20	4.81
FP Stlg Deposit:	101.10	101.10	.	6.03
FP Tokyo:	76.40	81.49	+ 2.34	.
FP UK Focus:	51.58	53.05	– 0.37	1.46
FP UK Growth:	242.20	258.80	– 1.70	1.54
-do- Accum:	498.70	533.00	– 3.50	1.54
Stewardship Dist:	474.60	505.50	+ 0.90	1.46
-do- Accum:	602.90	643.00	+ 1.00	1.46
Stwrdship Inc Dist #:	79.20	84.58†	– 0.01	4.95
-do- Accum #:	113.00	120.50	– 0.10	4.95
N Am Dollar Dist:	166.60	177.50	– 3.70	..
-do- Accum:	179.30	191.00	– 4.10	..
FP Exempt Trust:				
Inst Ethical Inc #:	120.10	122.70	– 0.10	2.70
Inst Ethical Acc #:	123.40	124.00	– 0.10	2.70
FP Managed Portfolio Service:				
Capital Gnth Acc:	149.40	158.90	+ 0.20	0.47
Opps Cap Gth Acc:	151.30	160.90	.	.
Cap Gth Inc Inc #:	133.00	141.40†	.	2.61
Cap Gth Inc Acc #:	144.00	153.10	.	2.61
Opps Cp Gth Ac Ac #:	137.70	146.40†	.	1.58
Opps Cp Gth Ic Ac #:	151.10	160.70	.	1.58

GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0345 581 1067
GANDA: 351.50 383.60 – 3.20 1.50
Cash: 49.58 50.32† . 4.53
Growth Portfolio: 104.50 111.20 – 0.30 .
Income Portfolio: 86.76 90.99† – 0.92 2.71

GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD
Inv 0800 2123274 Dealing 0171 626 9431
American State Cos: 274.90 293.70 – 2.60 0.11
European Gth: 886.20 941.00 – 8.70 0.51
Euro Eq & Bd Inc: 61.07 64.80 – 0.12 3.68
-do- Accum: 70.13 74.18 – 0.14 3.69
High Yield #: 53.53 56.58 + 0.05 7.14
-do- Accum #: 62.76 66.35 + 0.05 7.14
Income Inc: 220.60 236.00† – 0.50 3.77
-do- Accum: 260.60 278.80† – 0.50 3.77
Intl Growth: 432.40 458.30 – 2.10 0.22
Intl Income: 113.60 120.20 – 0.90 1.97
Japan Growth: 427.30 453.10 + 5.10 .
Orient Acc: 223.10 240.40 – 1.20 1.64
UK General Acc: 408.20 435.90 – 2.20 1.64
UK Sm Cos Dir Acc: 85.42 89.97 + 0.21 1.66
UK Spec Sits: 118.40 125.70 – 0.10 1.30
US Growth: 248.20 262.40 – 1.40 .
Whole Spec Sits: 201.60 214.40 – 1.80 .

GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS
01 771 782 2000 Dlgs only 01277 364 421
UK Growth Funds
British Growth: 71.15 76.01† + 0.08 1.79
Practical Inv Inc #: 136.39 146.51 – 0.09 3.28
-do- Accum #: 340.78 364.47† – 0.71 3.28
Ch. Index.: 218.87 219.97† + 0.30 1.51
UK Smaller Cos: 237.42 253.92 – 0.33 0.41
Income Funds
Extra Yield: 26.18 27.13† – 0.03 7.08
High Income: 61.05 63.72† + 0.04 3.60
UK Growth & Inc: 189.17 201.97† + 0.69 2.23
Global Bond: 28.17 29.80† – 0.05 5.00
International Funds
Emerging Markets: 53.16 55.79 – 0.17 .
Global Managed: 167.39 177.53 – 0.74 1.02
Gold & Intl Res: 99.84 106.78† – 0.96 .
Global Utilities: 175.30 186.80† – 0.28 0.44
Overseas Funds
American: 256.20 271.10 – 3.35 0.37
European: 173.56 184.37 – 0.25 0.43
Euro Sel Opps: 273.02 290.30 + 1.15 .
Amer Emerging: 211.48 224.73 – 1.28 .
Hong Kong: 213.30 226.20 – 3.13 0.82
Japan: 194.46 205.86 + 5.37 .
Pacific Growth: 207.40 222.24 – 0.38 .
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds
Cash Trust: 152.72 152.72† + 0.02 6.42
Managed Equity: 300.95 320.95 + 0.79 1.52
Long Term Bd: 319.27 319.27 – 0.70 6.34
Mod Term Bd: 295.00 295.00 + 0.33 5.67
UK Equity: 372.63 372.63 + 0.52 1.96
UK Emerging Cos: 188.07 188.07 + 0.18 2.21
American: 429.91 429.91 – 4.72 0.17
Europe: 451.93 451.93† + 0.94 0.53
Index Linked Gilt: 202.05 202.05† + 0.55 2.60
Fixed Interest: 198.79 198.79† + 0.32 6.88
Asian Emerging: 482.17 482.17 – 1.93 .
Pacific: 188.82 188.82 + 1.01 1.14
Emerging Mkts: 150.76 150.76† – 0.88 0.71
Index Strat Japan: 121.33 121.33 + 3.27 0.28
-do- Pacific Rim: 180.78 180.78 + 0.11 1.39
-do- Cont Europe: 243.87 243.87 + 1.29 1.16
Index Strat USA: 259.07 259.07 – 2.28 1.11
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds
Managed Equity: 142.27 151.34 + 0.39 .
Med Term Bd: 124.57 132.51 + 0.15 .
Long Term Bd: 144.21 153.47 + 2.08 .
UK Equity: 171.76 184.85 + 0.76 .
UK Emerging Cos: 85.21 91.71 + 0.10 .
American: 189.75 212.50 – 3.33 .
Japan: 54.57 58.65 + 1.30 .
European: 188.34 200.25 + 0.41 .
Fixed Interest: 102.96 109.52 + 0.17 .
Index Linked Gilt: 90.12 95.86 + 0.26 .
Deposit: 92.36 98.25 + 0.02 .
Broker Unit Trusts
BWM Ltd: 173.46 182.58† + 0.08 0.47

GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT
GAM Sterling Management 0171 483 9090
Stlg & Intl Inc: 797.77 848.99 + 4.69 0.11
-do- Accum: 995.55 1063.35 + 5.13 0.11
European Inc: 229.12 243.55 + 1.57 0.53
Amalgam Inc: 187.71 199.61 . .
N America Inc: 537.39 571.39 – 1.03 .
Far East Inc: 344.36 366.34 – 1.13 0.33
-do- Accum: 357.41 380.21 – 1.17 0.33
UK Dvdnd Inc: 236.76 251.87 + 0.72 0.81

For John Govett see AIB Govett

GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD
0171 588 9898
European: 732.80 782.90 – 5.60 .
Gilt & Fixed: 138.60 147.00† + 0.10 5.08
Growth Equity: 510.30 545.10 – 2.80 0.85
Income Trust: 179.80 192.20 – 1.10 3.55
International: 237.60 253.80† – 0.60 .
Japan Trust: 111.10 118.60 + 3.50 .
North American: 465.10 496.80 – 4.80 .
Pacific: 507.20 541.80 – 0.50 0.20
Quantibid: 727.30 777.00† – 3.40 0.93

GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD
0171 322 2129
European Bond: 100.20 103.97† + 0.62 4.87
Global High Inc: 97.43 101.15 + 0.12 5.19
Silly Bond Plfo: 112.93 117.32 + 0.05 6.45
Cont Mgd Plfo: 120.47 128.72 + 0.54 4.69
European Plfo: 162.69 172.98 + 1.86 .
World Mdw Plfo: 86.08 91.52 + 0.80 0.68
UK Eq Inc Plfo: 170.81 181.62† + 2.17 3.13
-do- Accum: 258.71 275.06 + 3.29 3.13
Recovery: 489.00 519.80 + 5.60 2.84
-do- Accum: 586.50 625.90 + 6.80 2.84
St Ymc High Inc: 141.19 150.09† + 0.75 6.85
UK Emerg Cos: 114.40 121.60 + 1.50 0.73
Inst UK Sm Co: 408.20 415.30 + 1.20 3.14
Glob Prm Tst: 154.94 164.74 + 1.98 0.61
-do- Accum: 161.69 171.28 + 2.06 0.61
Inc Share Tst: 98.82 105.07 + 0.75 6.15
Small Cos: 98.45 105.72† + 0.71 1.77
Hb & Chino Tst: 105.99 112.70 + 0.80 .

HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD
Dealing 0171 220 5050
Balanced Inc: 64.03 67.90† + 0.21 2.91
Balanced Acc: 69.85 74.07 + 0.23 2.91
Growth: 48.10 42.73† + 0.16 1.63
Growth Acc: 42.39 44.95 + 0.17 1.63
Income: 34.07 40.32† + 0.17 3.75
Income Acc: 42.22 44.77 + 0.20 3.75

HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 360
High Dividend: 105.20 108.70† . 6.30
Model Pfolio: 291.60 306.40 – 1.50 1.60

HARGREAVES LANSDOWN FUND MGRS LTD
Enquiries: 01277 690 230 Dealing: 01277 690 412
UT Pref Acc: 51.23 54.36 – 0.16 2.80

HENDERSON INVESTORS
Enquiries: 0645 494948 Dealing: 0645 464646
UT Funds:
UK Enterprise: 401.14 429.21† + 2.35 0.60
Best of British: 87.99 93.52 – 0.34 1.74
UK Smaller Cos: 161.56 173.69† + 0.44 1.12
High Income Funds
Income & Growth #: 372.90 397.11 + 1.08 4.64
-do- Accum #: 1083.97 1154.37 + 3.13 2.84
High Income: 402.17 430.98 + 1.04 3.80
Extra Income #: 334.98 356.25† + 0.91 5.88
Prof & Bond: 53.82 55.67 + 0.02 7.10
International
Ethical: 138.09 147.69† + 0.39 1.42
International: 388.25 420.67 + 2.76 .
Global Bond: 54.48 57.36† . 5.53
Intl Port Tst: 112.35 120.15 + 0.13 0.11
Global Tech: 294.06 313.30 + 1.49 .
Overseas Funds:
Asian Enterprise: 182.36 194.89 – 0.32 1.11
Europe: 887.92 955.91 + 7.07 0.10
European Income #: 110.91 117.69† + 0.75 2.93
Euro Smlr Cos: 230.21 245.57 + 1.66 0.35
European Value: 117.05 124.54 + 0.45 .
Japan Trust: 169.51 180.36 + 4.38 .
Japan Smlr Cos: 144.13 153.27† + 2.14 .
Pacific Sml Cos: 216.21 230.34† + 0.83 .
North American: 421.01 446.30 – 3.65 .
American Smalles: 230.17 244.67 – 0.42 .

HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010
Income & Growth #: 182.70 192.40† – 0.83 4.75

HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS
0181 686 4355
Boston: 152.10 159.27 – 0.23 1.40
Capital: 236.86 248.02† + 0.60 1.11
Dollar: 640.29 670.48 – 4.25 .
Enterprise Gth: 653.18 685.85† + 0.54 0.69
European: 349.42 365.88 + 0.75 .
Far East: 367.77 280.39 – 0.05 0.99
Financial: 1369.34 1434.44† – 5.26 1.22
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc: 28.79 29.34 . 6.17
High Yield #: 126.22 141.59 – 0.22 4.15
Income & Growth #: 202.52 212.06 – 0.29 3.12
International: 348.81 356.87 – 0.81 0.34
Japanese General: 174.28 182.58 + 1.92 .
Pacific Basin: 81.71 85.56 + 0.45 .
Ind Resources: 73.46 78.92 – 0.47 0.52
Portfolio: 96.08 100.60 – 0.05 1.75
Special Sits: 235.74 246.85† + 0.26 0.17
UK Emerging Cos: 132.25 138.48† – 0.18 1.14
US Smaller Cos: 159.83 169.25 – 0.33 .

HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
Advisers 0800 181 800 Investors 0800 298 505
Active Funds-UK
Income #: 784.90 837.30 + 1.20 4.54
UK Growth: 647.50 693.40 + 4.50 1.82
High Income #: 138.40 147.10† + 0.10 5.25
Active Funds-International
American Gnth: 810.70 856.30 – 5.90 .
European Gnth: 199.80 212.20 + 0.61 0.02
Japan Gnth: 258.60 274.80 + 8.10 .
Japan Smlr Cos: 23.65 25.14 + 0.35 .
Asian: 54.62 58.29 + 0.11 0.20
Selg & Mktg Gnth: 61.55 65.69 – 0.23 .
Hong Kong Gnth: 218.10 232.80 – 0.70 0.14
Global Bond: 21.40 22.54 + 0.04 4.53
Index Funds-Uk
UK Index: 267.20 308.20 + 0.56 2.76
Index Inde: 139.10 141.78† + 0.30 2.52
THE FOOTSIE FUND: 84.12 84.54 – 0.23 3.34
Index Funds-International
American Index: 388.10 398.10 – 2.10 0.58
Eurotrack 100: 256.40 262.70 + 0.90 0.96
Japan Index: 64.52 64.84 + 0.09 0.19
Tiger Index: 143.40 146.80† + 0.70 0.73

INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733
UK Specialist Trusts
UK Smaller Cos: 52.21 54.53† – 0.01 1.66
General Funds:
Managed Dist: 101.10 105.60 + 0.50 7.04
Managed: 104.80 109.50 + 0.60 1.04
Pooled Child Fnd: 132.10 137.70 + 0.50 1.84

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
HK Growth:	85.45	89.24	+ 0.17	1.32
High Income Funds				
Lib. Eagle Inc #:	103.40	108.00	+ 0.30	6.08
Gilt & Fixed Int #:	28.37	29.39†	.	7.37
UK Inc & Gwth:	59.32	61.95	+ 0.15	2.40
UK Income #:	454.40	474.60	+ 1.30	3.91
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth:	82.46	85.31†	– 0.80	.
Amer Smlr Cos:	209.90	218.00	– 0.20	.
-do- Accum:	212.10	220.40	– 0.40	.
Europa Gth:	298.50	308.60†	+ 0.60

At the Toronto Film Festival, **Geoff Brown** watches the big distributors fight to sign up the youthful prizewinners

Moguls tie up surprise packages

Life can be hard for press and industry folk attending the Toronto International Film Festival. Before a screening you queue to sign in. You queue to get your cinema admission ticket. Then you queue to penetrate the auditorium, where the previous film is running over. The film you have come to see finally over, you may have to race uptown to a different venue — and perform the same ritual.

None of this stopped the throngs doing business at this teeming, essential event: catching up on the state of world cinema, buying and selling, or simply schmoozing. More money changed hands at this year's festival — the 22nd — than at any other.

Thom Fitzgerald, a young film-maker from Nova Scotia, found himself the toast of the town with his quirky first feature *The Hanging Garden*: everyone liked it, and MGM bought it for American distribution. Another new talent, Trey Parker, signed on the dotted line for a multi-picture distribution deal with October Films, all because of *Orgazmo*, a wild comedy about a Mormon actor who finds fame and chaos as a porno movie superhero.

The adult entertainment business also provided Toronto with its biggest discovery, Paul Thomas Anderson's **Boogie Nights**, a dynamic look at Los Angeles's porn scene in the late 1970s and 1980s. Anderson's previous feature, *Hard Eight* (due soon in Britain), never suggested a talent bold enough to mount a two-and-a-half hour epic teeming with characters, swirling with camera movements, crowded with volatile emotions.

We follow the fortunes of the film-making family of porn movie director Jack Horner (played by Burt Reynolds: his best role for a long time). An amiable lad (Mark Wahlberg) becomes his new star, Dirk Diggler by name. Dirk gets sucked into drugs and partying, and grows an enormous ego. Decline and fall follow; he becomes a hustler and petty crook, while Horner continues to deliver the goods into the age of video.

> "The adult film business provided the biggest discovery"

This is not the only story told: Anderson weaves in almost as many lives as Robert Altman in *The Player* or *Short Cuts*. Sometimes his ambition gets the better of his skills, but he never misjudges the tone. Lubricious gazing at flesh is avoided; so is high censoriousness. To Anderson these people are flawed people like any others, in need of love, support, and our understanding. The assembled media voted *Boogie Nights* the festival's joint best film, together with Curtis Hanson's *L.A. Confidential*.

Life in Toronto was not all porn and naughtiness. There were no jockstraps in *Washington Square* or *The Wings of the Dove* or *Mrs Dalloway*, three of the prestigious literary adaptations newly rolled off the assembly line. Agnieszka Holland's version of **Washington Square** makes a particular fetish of clothes and props. An army of set dressers fill the screen with mantelpiece finery, carpets, handbags, gurgling fountains, carriages and prams. Jerzy Zielinski's sunny photography makes New York in the 1850s look like heaven on earth.

But where did all this leave Henry James? Suffocated. The script played its part: no matter how game Jennifer Jason Leigh, Albert Finney and Ben Chaplin were. Carol Doyle's adaptation kept choking the ironies in James's story of a plain young woman trapped between the conflicting demands of a domineering father and a seductive suitor.

James's plot, however, is still robust enough to collar most of our attention. This was not so in **The Wings of the Dove**, where the intricate material demanded a more penetrating, less modernised treatment from Iain Softley, the director of *Backbeat*. Helena Bonham Carter stars as the aristocratic English heroine who needs to accommodate her love for an ordinary journalist (Linus Roache). She looks lovely, and so does Venice; but this is nothing new.

Mrs Dalloway, from Marleen Gorris, the Dutch director of *Antonia's Line*, presented an even more striking spectacle of a novel reshaped with inappropriate tools. How can images, shot and cut in traditional ways, begin to penetrate the inner thoughts of a Virginia Woolf heroine? Only good comes from Vanessa Redgrave playing Mrs Dalloway, an MP's wife who muses on times past and missed opportunities; but we still stand outside the drama for a long time.



Vanessa Redgrave as Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway*, one of several adaptations of classic novels shown at Toronto

Films like these made Michael Haneke's **The Castle**, from Austria, all the more distinctive. The usual glue and stuffing of literary cinema is removed. Where Welles went into baroque overdrive adapting Kafka in *The Trial*, Haneke goes for Brechtian distancing. The camera stays level, the tone flat, the scenes bluntly curtailed by black frames. By refusing to underline K's struggle to perform his work as castle surveyor, Haneke makes the absurdities seem extra chilling.

Luckily, other film-makers stayed away from famous books and wrote original scripts; you would expect nothing less from Hal Hartley or John Sayles. Hartley's **Henry Fool** stretches thin material beyond sensible limits, although the director at least breaks ground by going all whimsical and reaching beyond his usual constituents. The title belongs to an egocentric ex-convict who shakes up life in a drab New Jersey suburb, and helps to turn a taciturn garbage man into a controversial poet. Carefully modulated performances, terse and crazy dialogue provide pleasure and, if the film helps Hartley to break out of his enclosed world, maybe the dull spots are worth suffering.

Sayles's new film, **Men With Guns**, is typically adventurous: who else would ignore commercial dictates and take the time and patience to fashion a Spanish-language film probing the Latin American experience? Two American tourists flit through to mainly comic effect. But Sayles's focus stays tight on Federico Luppi's Fuentes, a doctor trying to trace his medical students in the remote jungles of an unspecified country where human rights are routinely violated. The film is brave and intelligent, although it remains the kind of film easier to admire than enjoy.

And where was Canada itself in all this hoop-la? Winnipeg eccentric Guy Maddin disappointed fans with **The Twilight of the Ice Nymphs**, a less than hypnotic trip to his patented realm of mythic twaddle, with a cast including Shelley Duvall and numerous ostriches decorated with ribbons. Gary Burns, documentor of Canadian slackers, made a small impact with **Kitchen Party**.

But it was Fitzgerald's **The Hanging Garden** that buttonholed most observers; it won the Air Canada People's Choice Award, voted for by audiences. Fitzgerald's shooting manner is not the most elegant: he rams the camera too close to his actors and does not let images breathe. His material, though, is fresh and personal. Past and present, fact and fantasy, interweave.

An overweight teenager, oppressed at home, appears to hang himself, but returns for his sister's wedding as a slim, gay man of 25. Exuberantly styled, drenched with floral imagery and pounding music, this is the kind of film that renews one's faith not only in life, but also in film festivals.

NEW ON VIDEO

THE ENGLISH PATIENT
Buena Vista, 15, 1996
WILL repeated home viewing reveal extra subtleties to Anthony Minghella's Oscar-laden adaptation of Michael Ondaatje's complex novel of love, loyalty and national identity among the shifting sands of the Second World War? I suspect not, *Geoff Brown writes*, but it will certainly cramp the epic landscapes of desert sculpted by sun and shadow. Ralph Fiennes is aloof as the "English" patient charred in the war, who earlier conceived a grand passion for Kristin Scott Thomas's reckless aristocrat.

ANGEL OF VENGEANCE
Warner, 18, 1981
THE second film of Abel Ferrara, bad boy of American cinema, follows the footsteps of a mousy, dumb seamstress once she is mugged and raped. Her next attacker is slain with an iron and chopped into pieces. She then uses his gun to take aim at any threatening male. Ferrara's dark humour and sharp eye uplift an exploitation movie into something unsettling and stylish. Part of a new series called "Maverick Directors", and a video premiere.

BLOOD AND WINE
Fox Guild, 18, 1996
WINE merchant Jack Nicholson enlists Michael Caine's wheezing safecracker to steal a client's necklace. Director Bob Rafelson lavishes attention on the texture of scenes and the light they shine on tortured relationships. Result: a potboiler with pretensions. Available to rent.

MAMMA ROMA
Connoisseur, 15, 1962
MAMMA mia, it's Anna Magnani, one of Italy's most overwhelming actresses, who almost sets fire to the screen as the prostitute who strives to escape from her pimp. Pasolini's second film has rough edges and spoonfuls of melodrama, but the director's sensitivity to social texture and the splendours and miseries of ordinary life still make it a compelling experience.

PORTRAIT OF A LADY
PolyGram, 12, 1996
JANE CAMPION'S stylised adaptation of Henry James's novel, with Nicole Kidman tightly controlled as the independent American sucked into a marriage in Europe with a dilettante artist (John Malkovich, all quirks flying). The film seems frozen in form and feeling, adrift from its audience. Available to rent.

ACCOUNTANCY

The search for critical mass

As Coopers and Price Waterhouse prepare for merger, **Nick Land** forecasts a period of uncertainty

After the announcement of the proposed Coopers & Lybrand-Price Waterhouse merger one thing is certain and that is that the world's airlines will prosper as members of the international management groups of each of the Big Six travel around the world discussing the main questions: will this merger go through; will the partners or regulators seek to stop it; will other mergers be attempted; will the regulators allow them and what should be each firm's individual response?

There has been pressure on all of us to meet increasing demands from multinational clients, many of whom are managing their businesses on a more global basis and are thus looking to the Big Six for an increasingly global service. Against this background all of the Big Six have areas in the world or service or industry sectors where they would like to be stronger. The C&L/PW merger is being driven by a wish to strengthen their practices in areas where they believe they are relatively weak and to some extent to spread the rising cost of investment.

Of course, size isn't everything. The ability to provide an excellent and seamless service has more to do with culture and the way in which resources are deployed to get the best results for the client and a merger of two large organisations does not necessarily make that easier. But to service today's major multinational clients you do need critical mass and, if you lack it, one of the fastest ways of achieving this, although not necessarily the only or best way, is by merger.

There is inevitably much talk of further mergers between the remaining firms that will be examining this option. But there are other options available and one shouldn't assume that mergers will automatically follow. For example, a firm that has achieved high organic growth could be confident in its ability to continue to prosper without taking any big steps, calculating that through a stable culture and a clear focus they will move ahead, perhaps aided by picking up some pieces from the inevitable fallout from the C&L-PW merger. There are also possibilities of alliances or mergers outside the Big Six with, for example, strategy houses, hardware supplies, software developers or investment banks, as a way of developing service capability.



Firms are changing to meet global demands, says Nick Land

If not handled skilfully and with determination a merger can take up a lot of management time. It leads inevitably to a period of introspection that can result in the market moving on and competitors overtaking. Then there are hurdles to clear. Will this mega-merger be allowed by the regulators, not only here but also in other places such as the US, the EU, Canada and Australia? In the UK the combined firm would audit around 50 per cent of the FTSE 100 and 40 per cent of the FTSE 350. Consideration needs to be given to the public interest. The merger could lead to a drop in choice and to major conflicts of interest, particularly in corporate finance and insolvency. Would another merger and further market concentration be allowed?

Mergers have to be agreed by the majority of partners around the world. There are great strengths in the partnership structure which is peculiarly suited to professional service organisations such as ours but, in major matters such as mergers, the partners as "working shareholders" will have to be convinced that is a good thing. And the position will be very different in each country with inevitable clashes, leading to one or more national firms not joining the international merger.

No matter how good the fit in respect of service capabilities and geographical spread, the greatest challenge is making the cultures fit and blend as quickly as possible. This is the most uncomfortable phase and it can be hard to hang on to your star performers through this period.

The Big Six are going through a period of uncertainty during which the only thing we can be confident about is that the airlines will benefit.

Nick Land is senior partner at Ernst & Young.

Well partners, it's all up to you now

DROP into any branch of Coopers & Lybrand and have a riffle through the brochures and leaflets on display. After a while you will find the one which, since the news of the proposed merger with Price Waterhouse broke, is the key booklet. It is called *Merger Integration — Delivering the Benefits*. And presumably Coopers staff, who probably never give the brochures in reception a second glance, have been avidly reading it over the past week to see what lies ahead.

The first paragraph does not inspire confidence. "Mergers and acquisitions all too often fail to achieve business expectations," it says. "Research by Coopers & Lybrand suggests that as many as half of all such transactions are judged as failures by managers." Even if you discount the hype embedded in any document aimed at prospective clients, that does suggest that Coopers and Price Waterhouse have problems on their hands. The next section makes it worse. Under "management attitudes and culture" they quote a manager from their research. "The management culture was totally different," he said. "We take decisions quickly. They spend weeks in committees arguing over what should be done." That sounds very much like accountancy firms.

It is always surprising that mergers are most often suggested by those companies or firms that are the worst managed. The last two decades of accountancy mergers are littered with cases where two appallingly managed firms have decided that things could only get better if they combined their lack of expertise and hoped that something might change.



ROBERT BRUCE

That is not quite so true of Coopers and Price Waterhouse but certainly the firms have developed an unfortunate reputation over the past few years of being two of the most poorly managed out of the UK Big Six firms. It is not obvious how the coming months are going to bring forth a tightly focused and dynamic force. This is complicated by the nature of partnerships.

Take a look at the central part of the Coopers merger booklet. This is headed "Understanding the Real Value Drivers". "In the thrill of doing the deal," it says, "it is easy to lose sight of the primary goal — increasing shareholder value. If the merged business is to be more than the sum of its parts then the two organisations need to leverage each other's capabilities to create added value." That sort of thing may work in a corporate environment. Shareholders are useful as an outside and motivating force with an easy benchmark in the share price. In partnerships the managers are the shareholders.

So it is small wonder that many finance directors produced an initial kneejerk reaction to the merger proposal and argued that they would have less choice and the accountants were only doing it to protect their earnings. Well, of course, they want to protect their earnings. But they can only do that by offering greater efficiency and better service.

In theory what happens is that the mega-firm produced by the merger could tackle the greatest and escalating cost facing any organisation in the professional services field. And that is information technology. There were hands thrown in the air that Price Waterhouse partners heard the news via their Lotus Notes system. The reason that the Coopers partners didn't suffer the same fate is that they are still struggling to create such a system. The costs are phenomenal. But the savings and efficiencies are greater. The greatest final value to the merged firm would be that the ability of one firm of 8,500 partners to invest in such systems would be way beyond the two firms' current abilities.

This is also why the two firms are attempting to create a proper global structure and run the final firm that way. All the accounting firms have long argued in their client brochures that they are "truly global" and in the sense that they have offices in Timbuktu as well as Tokyo they are. But they are not structures. For example, the original plans for Price Waterhouse in the UK to build a truly effective European firm were scuppered some years ago when the US firm, in response to some slight or other, refused to subscribe the cash requested. By going for a proper global structure from day one the new firm might avoid all the faults which are obvious in all the other of the Big Six firms' supposedly global capabilities.

But in the end it is all about new services. Audit is a tiny part of the firm's business world now. Arguments about competition based on audit reach are outdated. This proposed merger has two issues — the explosive growth of a huge range of professional services and whether partners will vote it through. It is, as the Coopers' brochure concludes, about "mobilising teams to deliver the benefits".

Driving force behind e-mails

ALL the hype being hurled around about the proposed merger between Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand stresses global communication. So spare a thought for the chairman and chief executive of Coopers in China. He is John Stuttard and is currently ensconced in a pink Rolls-Royce taking part in the Beijing to Paris Rally. The first he heard about the merger was over the fax as he rattled through Tibet. This week he has got as far as Kathmandu. He is not a man to keep his views to himself. Coopers head office in London is now receiving e-mails aplenty from the dashboard of their man, temporarily, in Afghanistan.

Source to tap

IF ACCOUNTING standard-setters round the world do get together there will be great cultural differences to iron out. Take openness, for example. Neither of the UK-based bodies, the International Accounting Standards Committee nor the Accounting Standards Board, throws its meetings open to the public. But all this may be about to change. The US body, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, operates in open session. And it also provides phone links so that someone interested in hearing a debate on derivatives but who has to be in Los Angeles that day can listen in to what is going on in Norwalk, Connecticut. It is the idea of phone links that interests the UK bodies. They have discovered that FASB charges premium rates. Suddenly they can see all their funding problems evaporating.

Brass tax

JUST as the chaos of self-assessment boils up to a rather artificial deadline of the end of September the Chartered Institute of Taxation has pulled off a masterstroke. One of the problems faced by taxpayers who have never employed a tax adviser is that there is no easy way of judging whether the adviser advertising in the local paper is likely to come up to scratch. But as of this week it becomes easier. The institute received its Royal Charter in 1994 and this week the Privy Council has allowed members to call themselves Chartered Tax Advisers. It will look very good on a brass plate.

ROBERT BRUCE

ANY OTHER BUSINESS





Lady in the dark: Jodie Foster plunges into the unknown in *Contact*, Robert Zemeckis's journey through close encounters beyond the Milky Way

Intelligent life in sci-fi?

NEW MOVIES: It's true, says **Geoff Brown**. *Contact* offers food for thought as well as intergalactic hokum

We have seen so much science-fiction silliness up on the big screen that it comes as quite a shock to watch **Contact**. There she stands, Jodie Foster, trying to get funding to continue her surveillance of intelligent life in space. "The aloneness of humans," she says. "A profoundly impactful moment in the history of history." Big words, big thoughts: *Contact* is full of them, rather than the rinky-dink dialogue of comic strips. Images, too, are equally grand. The opening minutes take us on a dizzying tour of the cosmos. Planets shoot past, awesomely beautiful, as a sound collage embraces the 20th-century American experience, from rock music to the speeches of FDR.

Directed by Robert Zemeckis from the novel by Carl Sagan, *Contact* also boasts strong characters. We begin with Foster as a child: a star-gazing girl who loses her father when she is nine and begins a quest to understand the universe's mysteries. As an adult she is a force to reckon with: impassioned, obstinate, self-possessed, ready to spend day upon day waiting for satellites to pick up messages from outer space.

Finally one comes, from a distant star, Vega. Included in the transmission is a building kit for an intergalactic travel machine, known as the Pod. Should Earth go ahead, and make contact? And who should be the one to journey into deep space to shake hands with the unknown? Jodie wants to go, of course, but Tom Skerritt, her former mentor, pushes his way forward. And how does America's military might react? James Woods is the National Security Advisor, and since the first image transmitted from Vega is of Hitler addressing the Berlin Olympics, he has good reason to be wary.

For over half the running time, Zemeckis explores all these questions with verve and wit, though there are warning signs of hiccups ahead. One is Matthew McConaughey's character who serves, clumsily, as New Age religious spokesman and vague male romantic interest, something which Jodie has no use for. Another is the residue from *Forrest Gump*, Zemeckis's last movie: little bits of manipulated news footage bringing President Clinton into play. These make the film less believable, not more.

By the end, *Contact* has developed schizophrenia. Part of the movie means to be meaningful. Another part wants to play games and spin hokum, much of it linked to John Hurt's character, a bald eccentric billionaire.

Yet even if silliness becomes a factor after all, *Contact* is never dull or shoddy. Jodie Foster is excellent, perfectly cast, and special effects are smoothly integrated: outer space has rarely looked so lovely and alluring.

Atom Egoyan's **The Sweet Hereafter**, based on the novel by Russell Banks, is another new release to bring cheer, though its subject matter scarcely makes for a "feel-good" movie. We are dealing with grief and a shattered community in British Columbia which lost 14 children when the school bus plunged into a river. Into this tragic landscape comes a lawyer nursing his own demons, played by a tight-lipped Ian Holm. He urges the townspeople to sue the school or the bus company. But will this make the hurt go away or bring any nearer the "sweet hereafter" of the Negro spiritual?

The films of this Canadian maverick usually reveal a gifted director wrapped up to a claustrophobic degree in his own concerns: the technological invasion, the voyeuristic gaze, and the labyrinths of desire. But here the experience of adapting another's work appears to have liberated Egoyan. Though he pushes the narrative through some unnecessarily complex jumps in time — back to the tragedy, forward to Holm regaling a plane passenger with his sorrows — the emotional pull remains overwhelming.

Wintry images and mournful music cement the elegiac tone. Cameraman Paul Sarossy ensures there is a brooding beauty even when Holm navigates a carwash; and the wide screen is perfect to catch characters locked in their separate spaces, or express the agony of the bus pitchforked into the river's white death.

If Egoyan's technique is simplified, the film's effect remains complex. No easy, sentimental answers are given to the messy business of grieving. Characters' behaviour cannot be easily pigeonholed. Holm appears both insidious and sympathetic. Even incest is treated without moral judgment: in a change from the novel, the relationship between a surviving teenager (Sarah Polley) and her father is viewed as benign, not threatening. In its refusal to soothe troubled waters *The Sweet Hereafter* is an unsettling film, and it lingers in your heart and mind.

Lingering is not Antonia Bird's style. The director of *Priest* and *Safe* aims for immediate impact. Look at **Face**, which marks her return to British material after the Hollywood folly of *Mad Love*. The presentation is rigorously stylised, with bleached flashbacks and forceful cutting. The soundtrack bombards you. The cast, too, does not stand on tiptoe, except perhaps for its most newsworthy name, Damon Albarn, Blur's lead singer, who appears briefly and harmlessly as a criminal gang's youngest recruit. The rest of the troupe are Robert Carlyle, Ray Winstone, Philip Davis and Steven Waddington: all good value.

Lack of energy, then, is not the problem. Lack of freshness is. Bird and her writer, Ronan Bennett, may try to make their film a report on the state of the nation: note Carlyle's activist background, the general election posters, and the script's ruminations on selfishness and greed. But this is mere fancy dressing, smeared over the usual business of thieves falling out, fighting over loot. Chunks, like the police station finale, are crisply exciting, but the whole seems not quite worth the noise and bustle.

Another pop luminary, Jon Bon Jovi, tries strutting his stuff in **The Leading Man**, made in England by the Australian John Duigan. Cultural conflicts are part of the theme: Bon Jovi's Hollywood star, acting in London, overplays his hand when he helps the dramatist's love life by wooing his wife. This old-fashioned concoction ambles along innocuously, but it wastes Duigan's *Flirting* star, Thandie Newton, and finds little useful employment for Bon Jovi's vacant good looks.

Contact
Warner West End, PG, 150 mins
Sci-fi romp for the thinking audience

The Sweet Hereafter
Curzon Mayfair, 15, 110 mins
Atom Egoyan learns how to feel

Face
Empire, 18, 100 mins
British thriller with more noise than substance

The Leading Man
Warner West End, 15, 96 mins
Jon Bon Jovi fails to please

SNAP VERDICT

Every week young film fans discuss the latest releases . . .

CONTACT
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 19: I found this movie extraordinary. Surely Hollywood has never been this brave before.
Dominic Young, 18: Jodie Foster is outstanding in this arresting film.
Laura Brook, 19: Only in a few years will this movie be fully appreciated.
Eleanor Zeal, 18: Very deep stuff. Entertaining and educational in equal measure.

FACE
Leslie: Blur's Damon Albarn makes a competent acting debut in this violent thriller.
Dominic: This is a British version of *Reservoir Dogs*.
Laura: I'm fed up with seeing such horrific violence on the big screen. Disturbing.
Eleanor: Steven Waddington's understated performance is the only light.







TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

Mozart's Symphony No 38 with the merry pranks of Strauss's *Till Eulenspiegel*. The evening concludes with the nightmarish *Bluebeard's Castle*. Bartók's chilling, expressionist opera. Sir Simon Rattle conducts. See review, page 37.
Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm.

GREAT YARMOUTH: First performance tonight of **Out of the Blue**, a visual and musical extravaganza set to break new boundaries in opera and theatre. The show uses the harbour, the beach and the sea as its stage, with ships, helicopters and lakes as props. It is devised by Pip Greasley, Colin Pearce and Hilary Westlake.
Great Yarmouth Port, Gorleston-on-Sea (01493 332777). Tonight, Fri and Sat, 7pm. Gates open, 6.30pm.

MOLD: Peter Shaffer's **Equus**, Terry Hands's opening production as artistic director, with Frank Grimes playing Dysart and Oliver Ryan the troubled boy obsessed with horses.
Theatr Clwyd (01352 755114). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Oct 2, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until October 11.

WOLVERHAMPTON: A new home and a new lease of life for the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. Opening tonight is the company's new version of **Iolanthe**, Gilbert and Sullivan's ever-relevant political satire about MPs and fairies. Gillian Knight sings the role of the Queen of the Fairies, with Richard Suart and Alan Watt sharing the role of The Lord Chancellor. Fenton Gray directs. Alternating with Lehár's **The Count of Luxembourg**, the company's second choice for the season.
Grand Theatre, Lichfield Street (01902 29212). *Iolanthe*: tonight, Sat, Sept 29, Oct 1, 3, 7.30pm; mats Sat and Oct 1, 2.30pm. *Count*: tomorrow, Sept 30, Oct 2 and 4, 7.30pm. On tour in Oct.



A new play by Tom Stoppard at the National

LONDON GALLERIES

Anthony d'Offay: Reinhard Mucha (0171-499 4100) . . . **Chris Beetles:** Muriel Pemberton: An English Colourist . . . **Design Museum:** The Power of Erotic Design (0171-403 6933) . . . **Hamlet Green:** John Crossley and Vanessa Jackson (0171-287 8328) . . . **ICA:** Assuming Positions (0171-930 3647) . . . **Mall:** Royal Society of British Artists (0171-930 6844) . . . **National Portrait:** Glenys Barton (0171-306 0055) . . . **The Photographers' Gallery:** Airport (0171-831 1772)

LONDON

THE BOYS IN THE BAND Revival of Mart Crowley's epochal gay play from 1968 where the guests at a Greenwich Village birthday party reveal feelings ranging from self-hatred to acceptance. Witty, touching, in its way a landmark.
King's Head, Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Sat, Sun, 3.30pm.

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC NETWORK TOUR: Zakir Hussain, John McLaughlin and Vikku Vinayakaram, founder members of Shakti, the group which found fame through its unique fusion of Indian classical music and Western jazz, arrive here tonight with a feast for acoustic music lovers. Joining them is the Indian flautist Hariprasad Chaurasia in a celebration of 50 years of Indian independence.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). 7.30pm.

DORIAN: New musical, based on the Oscar Wilde novel, with a bit added about the hero's childhood. Music and lyrics by the Australian David Reeves. Mehmet Ertan directs.
Arts Theatre, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 3334/8362132). Previews tonight-Sat, 8pm. Opens Sep 29, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Fri and Sat, 5pm. Until November 1.

THE INVENTION OF LOVE. Tom Stoppard's new play with John Wood as the elderly A. E. Housman, careful to keep his love life private, unlike Oscar Wilde, who also appears. Paul Rhys plays the young Housman and Michael Bryant is Charon ferrying the dead across the Styx. Richard Eyre directs.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Oct 1, 7pm. In rep.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Repeat of Tuesday's concert with the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** which teams Penhaligon a lovelorn spinster.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

☐ **PYGMALION:** Amusing, unshowy revival with Roy Marsden, Michael Elphick and newcomer Cari Morris.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4.30pm.

☐ **SKYLIGHT:** Bill Nighy and Stella Gonet in David Hare's witty and cogent play showing two contemporary social moralities at odds. Richard Eyre directs.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

THE WASP FACTORY: Successful stage version of the sinister cult novel by Iain Banks, adapted and directed by Malcolm Sutherland. First seen at West Yorkshire Playhouse. Terrific sets.
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Mon-Fri, 8.30pm, Sat, 7pm and 9.30pm. Until October 18.

LONG RUNNERS

Grease: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) . ☐ **An Inspector Calls**, Garrick (0171-494 5085) . . ☐ **Jesus Christ Superstar:** Lyceum (0171-656 1807) . ☐ **Martin Guerre:** Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) . . . **Les Misérables:** Palace (0171-434 0909) . ☐ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . **Oliver!:** Palladium (0171-494 5020) . **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . ☐ **Smokey Joe's Cafe:** Prince of Wales (0171-839 5987).

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Disney's film turned into a hit Broadway musical. Julie-Alanah Brighten and Alasdair Harvey as the leads, with support from the likes of Derek Griffiths and Norman Rossington.
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-416 6060). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

☐ **THE CENSOR:** Alastair Galbraith, Alison Newman and Jan Pearson in Anthony Neilson's strong study of a deeply anxious film censor and his murky longings. Admirably staged.
Royal Court Theatre Upstairs (Ambassadors), West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Until September 27.

☐ **DISCO PIGS** Enda Walsh's award-winning, Cork-set play where the inseparable Pig and Runt use a private language, part baby-talk, part dub poetry, to cope with life.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 5050). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

AN ENCHANTED LAND: Ex-prostitute mother, virginal daughter and village womaniser caught in a tangle of jealousy and voodoo on Haiti. Joseph Blatchley directs new play by Dale Wasserman, author of the stage version of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.
Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, London W6 (0181-741 2255). Tue-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 7.30pm. Until October 11.

ENTER THE GUARDSMAN Musical version of Ferenc Molnar's comedy of Viennese manners where an actor and actress, perfectly matched onstage, live a very different life at home. With Janie Dee, Alexander Hanson and Nicky Henson. Music and lyrics by Craig Bohmler and Marion Adler. Directed by Jeremy Sams.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Opens Sept 17, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **HURLYBURLY:** West End transfer for the first hit from Peter Hall's Old Vic company. David Rabe's savagely funny play about Californian men behaving very badly indeed. Wilson Milam directs an excellent cast led by Rupert Graves, Jenny Seagrove, Andy Serkis and David Tennant.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5105). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

☐ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND:** Return of Peter Hall's enjoyable production, brimful of deceptions. Starring Martin Shaw and Simon Ward, and Kate O'Mara as the svelte troublemaker.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

☐ **THE MYSTERIOUS MR LOVE:** New play by Karoline Leach, set in 1912 in a hotel at Weston-super-Mare, directed by Bob Tomson. Paul Nicholas plays a confidence trickster and Susan

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **CAREER GIRLS** (15) Student friends meet up as adults. Awkward but touching Mike Leigh drama, with Katrin Cartlidge and Lynda Steadman.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** ◪ (0990 888990) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520).

DEEP CRIMSON (18) Crisp and morbid Mexican drama about lonelyhearts murderers. Directed by Arturo Ripstein.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Metro** (0171-437 0757).

GALLIVANT (15) Film-maker Andrew Kotting journeys round Britain with his grandmother and daughter. An unclassifiable delight.
ICA ◪ (0171-930 3647) **Everyman** ◪ (0171-435 1525).

◆ **MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING** (12) Julia Roberts does her best to top up Dermot Mulroney at the altar. Intelligent romantic comedy, directed by P. J. Hogan.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Greenwich** (0181-295 3005) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343).

◆ **PHOTOGRAPHING FAIRIES** (15) Grieving photographer (Toby Stephens) believes in fairies. Unappetising British drama, directed by Nick Willing.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Empire** ◪ (0990 888990) ◪ **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990).

◆ **SPAWN** (12): Inconsequent comic book nonsense, with Michael Jai White as the superhero fighting the forces of Satan.
Odeons: Camden Town (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990).

CURRENT

◆ **AIR FORCE ONE** (15): President Harrison Ford gets hijacked. Preposterous, old-fashioned fun, with Gary Oldman and Glenn Close. Director, Wolfgang Petersen.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Notting Hill Coronet** ◪ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990).

◆ **AUSTIN POWERS: INTERNATIONAL MAN OF MYSTERY** (15): Wayward spoof of Swinging Sixties cinema, with Mike Myers and Elizabeth Hurley. Director, Jay Roach.
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◆ **EVENT HORIZON** (18): Hell is discovered in outer space. Grisly sci-fi adventure, with Laurence Fishburne and Sam Neill. Director, Paul Anderson.
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◆ **GROSSE POINTE BLANK** (15): Troubled hit man hits his class reunion. Hip comedy with John Cusack, Minnie Driver and Dan Aykroyd.
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◆ **MEN IN BLACK** (PG): Hip blockbuster about aliens in Manhattan, with Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith. Director, Barry Sonnenfeld.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343).

Caryl Churchill's marvellously unpredictable pair of plays; plus well-crafted Shakespeare

The mother of invention

DONALD COOPER



Valerie Lilley (Alice) and Mary Macleod (Maisie) are interrupted by Jason Watkins as the ostrich in *Heart's Desire*

Who is the most inventive, unpredictable British dramatist now at work? Anybody who has enjoyed the surreal dinner-party of Popes and explorers in *Top Girls*, or the wild gender-bending of *Cloud Nine*, or the mix of ballet and drama in *The Skriker* and *Hotel*, will be hard put to nominate a better candidate than Caryl Churchill. And after seeing the two short plays Joint Stock is bringing to the Royal Court's West End home — well, surely the position is hers.

Blue Kettle, the more serious of the two, strikes me as the lesser; but maybe that is because I don't fully understand it. Not that the central

Blue Heart
Duke of York's

situation is unclear. Jason Watkins's fortyish Derek tracks down a series of ageing women and reveals himself as the son they gave away years ago for adoption. Is it an ugly con-trick or an expression of despair at his own sad, senile old mum? Probably both, but more the latter.

The problem is not this uncertainty but the oddities of speech that seep into the dialogue and finally engulf it, until the two words "blue" and "kettle" substitute indiscriminately for almost every noun and verb. I suspect Churchill wishes to dramatise English evasion, our national inability to say what we mean when emotional chasms yawn. But with such blatant verbal weirdness up front it is difficult for her to explore, or us to see, the convoluted anguish below. As a dramatic experiment it is admirable, but more distracting than revealing.

Not so with *Heart's Desire*, which is as hilariously imaginative a piece as Churchill has written. Only afterwards does one wholly twig that at base it tells a humdrum suburban story. Bernard Gallagher's Dad, Valerie Lilley's Mum and Mary Macleod's dim Auntie Maisie are waiting for the return of Susy, who has been in Australia for several years. As they wait, there are edgy, tetchy exchanges which suggest that the young woman has had an uneasy relationship with her parents: but all is under control by the time a nervous reunion occurs.

But the identical lines stop, start again, and are repeated and re-repeated after veering off in odd, abortive directions: a sudden rumination on death, a vow by Mum to leave Dad, a confession of marital infidelity. Moreover, the proceedings are variously interrupted by an SS man, three terrorists, a huge ostrich, Susy's lesbian partner demanding house-room, hordes of rampaging children, and the son of the house, wailing accusations at his parents.

Could there be a funnier, more vivid evocation of the tensions and terrors, resentments and fantasies, beneath the family surface? No, not as Churchill writes the play and Max Stafford-Clark's cast deftly performs it. This is absurdism with attitude.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Devilry in detail

Much Ado About Nothing
Manchester

First we hear distant firecrackers celebrating the end of fighting. But when the lights go up we are looking at a flight of steps in a Sicilian garden — it will later become a small piazza — on a sleepy afternoon. A guitar is lazily strummed. Women are dozing, or idly plucking dates off a stalk — picked from the tree Benedick will later climb to find a hiding place. This is a world of women waiting for something interesting to happen to them. In a word, men.

By a variety of means, Helena Kaut-Howson's production at the Royal Exchange creates a warm community, well used to the ways of its individuals, whose behaviour follows old patterns. Even the dogs do what is expected and howl when Benedick tries his voice at a song. The drama of the play develops when the familiar order is disturbed in two directions: for the good when Benedick and Beatrice are tricked into thoughts of love, and for the bad when Claudio is tricked into thinking Hero's love for him is false.

First comedy and then poignant tragedy break the sweet steadiness of time's passage, but in and around these upsets the life of a little town goes on: processions wind between the arches and, unusually for Shakespeare, a representative of the Church of Rome helps solve the dilemma. Friar Francis is a role that generally leaves only a slight impact but it is here made briefly crucial by John Branwell.

This theatre's round (in fact, seven-sided) stage is wonderfully suited to the comic trickery in the orchard. Benedick and Beatrice in turn burying themselves in the front row, as though the audience were pots of geraniums. In this scene Michael Mueller's face beams delight, and though it is some time yet before his voice calms down, he begins to lose the reliance on heat and loud sound that marred his earlier sparring. At the end of their first meeting Josie Lawrence allows herself an intriguing frown of irritation when he pulls away from the argument. We can see her needing to feel she does not need him, and her range of emotions is impressive, transfigured into happiness on finding love, choking with bitter laughter after Hero's collapse.

The production's care for detail shows. John McAndrew's wicked Don John dabs cologne on his wrists, like Chekhov's Solyony. He wears a green uniform too. Ewan Hooper's excellent Leonato is very funny when delivering his evidently hard-learnt speech about his niece's supposed love, arms stiff, head nodding, voice in recitation mode.

JEREMY KINGSTON

French fluff freshened up

OPERA
Platée
Barbican

FRESH from the Edinburgh Festival, the Royal Opera's new production of *Platée* arrives at the Barbican as part of what has become, with William Christie's visit and the Royal Opera's *Giulio Cesare* there, a festival of Baroque music theatre. Putting *Platée* alongside Purcell and Handel sadly emphasises the undramatic, short-breathed invention of Rameau's music, but Nicholas Payne's courage in staging such a work, unsuited to Covent Garden, during the company's period of exile still needs to be saluted.

Even by the standards of *comédie lyrique*, *Platée* (1745) is one of the most inconsequential operas ever written, a piece of French fluff in which Jupiter pretends to seduce the vain and ugly marsh nymph of the title in order to cure his wife's jealousy. How should it be staged today? Since the nymph is sung by a tenor, descent into camp would be all too easy, and Mark Morris's production succeeds above all because it engages our sympathy for the deluded creature. Some of the dancing may look like Morris-on-autopilot, but there is real freshness in the way the witty Prologue is set in Bacchus's bar, c. 1920, and the manner in which the marsh teems with characters dressed in Isaac Mizrahi's riotous costumes.

Everything about the show is as described a few weeks ago by Rodney Milnes from Edinburgh, though here in the opening numbers ensemble between the pit and chorus was choppy. Nicholas McGegan keeps the music moving swiftly, if at times spikily. The singers François Le Roux, Nicole Tibbels, Mark Padmore, Diana Montague and Susan Gritton stand out in various parts, but the evening belongs to the flexible voice, expressive face and amphibian limbs of Jean-Paul Fouchécourt in the title role.

JOHN ALLISON

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David Sinclair sees the Rolling Stones launch their new world tour in Chicago

The return of the Rolling Stones, with a new album and tour, is an event which prompts — in the words of one of their own songs — mixed emotions. Among many pundits and middle-aged folk who have all but forgotten that they once had an enthusiasm for rock music, there is a chorus of weary disbelief. Surely they cannot still be peddling that same old renegade image, still pretending they can compete with the new young bands of today. Who do they think they are kidding? But for the millions of people who still go out and buy their records and see their shows there is a feeling of immense warmth towards the Stones for their music, and admiration for their continuing vitality, in defiance of all rational expectations.

The latter mood was clearly prevalent on Tuesday among the 50,000-strong crowd which gathered in Soldier Field stadium in Chicago, on the opening night of the group's *Bridges to Babylon* tour, yet another gruelling itinerary of huge venues already stretching into February 1998 and tentatively scheduled to reach Britain next summer. "Either we'll die in the attempt or it'll be fantastic," Keith Richards predicted earlier in the month.

In the event the first outing turned out to be a competent if not altogether inspired presentation which focused squarely on the group's astounding legacy of hits. "It would be foolish to start the tour by playing half a set of new songs," Mick Jagger said when they were preparing the show pointing out that it takes a long time, particularly in America, for new songs to become familiar and also that the album itself is not released until next Monday.

Arriving on a stage decorated with silver drapes, two 18-foot high gold figurines, a big circular video screen and golden honeycombs of speakers, the band started with *Satisfaction*, usually a number reserved for the encores, and followed on with a string of similarly ancient favourites including *It's Only Rock'n' Roll*, *Bitch*, *Let's Spend the Night Together* and the rarely played *19th Nervous Breakdown*. The only new songs were a rather shaky version of their current single, *Anybody Seen My Baby?*, and a splendidly dramatic *Out Of Control* during which Jagger twisted his extraordinarily skinny frame into a series of frantic contortions.

Visitors to the Stones website had earlier been invited to vote for one song to be included in the set and there was a huge cheer as Jagger accessed the site on the big screen to reveal the people's choice: *Under My Thumb*. Adopting a trick used in the past by U2, Bon Jovi and AC/DC, the band decamped to a tiny stage in the middle of the crowd for a "back to the roots" sequence of *Little Queenie*, *Let It Bleed* and *The Last Time*. They returned to the main stage for another broadside of old hits including *Start Me Up*, *Brown Sugar* and the inevitable *Jumping Jack Flash*.

There were the usual fireworks, inflatables, smoke bombs and a massive shower of confetti that engulfed most of the stadium during *You Can't Always Get What You Want*. But some of the performances sounded a little rusty and after the unprecedented splendour of the 1994-95 *Voodoo Lounge* tour there was a slight but persistent sense of retrenchment in the stage design and lighting departments. Even so it was an entertainment which very few groups, of any age, could rival.

Still the vexed question remains. Do the Stones have any contemporary relevance or are they an anachronistic burlesque? If their live show relied heavily on past glories, their album, *Bridges to Babylon*, is a tremendous collection of new songs, some of them on a par with the best in their back catalogue. The opening track, *Flip the Switch*, is an absolute belter with a macabre lyric sung from the viewpoint of a convict on death row urging his jailer to go ahead and flip the switch: "I'm not going to burn in hell/I cased the joint and I know it well."

Low Down is an amazing riff somewhat in the *Start Me Up* vein that stretches out and then snaps into shape like a bow string being pulled and released. If Richards is on rare form then Jagger's voice is also as powerful as it has ever been, ranging from a delicate sob to a bullish roar on the eloquent rocker *Saint of Me* and the forlorn ballad *Already Over Me*. It is an album that gives the lie to the pernicious idea that the Stones' music must be out of date because they are no longer in the first flush of youth.

The secret of their success, and to some extent the key to the Stones' longevity, lies in the unique creative tension between Jagger and Richards. "Mick is much more commercially minded than me. I'm sick to death of phoney sounds," Richards says, hinting at his reluctance to embrace the modern techniques employed on the album by guest producers Danny Saber and the Dust Brothers.

But Jagger is equally reluctant to go on making records in the same way as the Stones always have done, insisting before recording began that: "We should think about the way the songs are written, the subject material, the noises, the grooves; anything to make sure it sounds a bit different from previous Stones albums." The result is a fine balance of mild innovation firmly rooted within a timeless rock'n'roll tradition.

Yes, the Stones have grown old. But although rich and successful beyond belief, there is still a calculated air of barbarism about them, and a delinquent energy which saves their music from turning into the drab middle-aged pop of contemporaries such as Rod Stewart and Paul McCartney. That they have failed to grow old "gracefully", let alone fade away quietly, may not fit in with certain preconceptions. But it is surely our great gain.

JEFF HAYNES/AFP



Mick Jagger sings to the Chicago crowd: "It was an entertainment which very few groups, of any age, could rival"

Still top of the populists

THE Levellers are purveyors of doughty folk rock, bristling with political anger and bolstered by choruses of heroic defiance. It is a formula that has earned them little critical acclaim, but an army of fans.

The Levellers are, though, not just a band: they are an enterprise. They have invested their wealth in a community centre and studio in their home town of Brighton. This venture, like the Levellers' success generally, has rested on an astute mixture of political principle and populism.

This astuteness is also evident in the music. With *Mouth to Mouth*, their fifth and latest album, there are signs of a change of policy. The traditional sounds of the previous order are giving way to sampling, strings and pedal steel. Like the Labour Party, Old Leveller is being ousted by New Leveller.

The Levellers
UEA, Norwich

But while these competing pulls are very evident on record, their stage show remains largely unaffected. The Levellers continue to rely on the familiar line-up of guitars, bass, drums and violin, so that their dabbling with dance culture blends easily with their fiddle-led hoe-downs. *Too Real* may begin with rumbling bass and paranoid squawks, but it is not long before a chirpy chorus is infiltrated into the mix. And it is those choruses that drive the show, especially on *15 Years*, *What a Beautiful Day* and *Celebrate*, their new single.

Nor are there any signs of the change of image. Lead singer Mark Chadwick still resembles Martin Shaw in *The Professionals*, bass player Jeremy Cunningham bounces and twists, his dreadlocks flailing wildly. The rest of the band — Jon Sevink on violin, Charlie Heather on drums and Simon Friend on guitar — seem equally averse to the temptation of designer labels.

The Levellers may not write classic tunes, or in Chadwick have the most powerful of singers, but they have the knack of selling a song and working a crowd in the old folk tradition.

JOHN STREET

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WITH a little judicious tweaking and the diplomatic excision of the one dud item of the evening, EMI has made a very agreeable CD from its centenary evening at Glyndebourne last April, *John Higgins writes*.

Four sopranos carry off many of the top honours. Felicity Lott and Natalie Dessay show a nice sense of sauciness. Lott goes for a man-mocking song from Messager's *l'Amour masqué* and Dessay for the equally wry *Glitter and be gay* from *Candide*. Alison Hagley is delicious as Nannetta from *Falstaff*, and Amanda Roocroft right back on form admiring the moon in Dvořák's *Rusalka*.

The male challenge is led by Thomas Hampson thundering with furious jealousy as Verdi's Ford, and Nicolai Gedda taking Danilo off to Maxim's in *The Merry Widow*. A top contribution, too, from the LPO and its two conductors, Andrew Davis and Franz Welser-Möst.

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Begun in style

CONCERTS

LSO/Davis
Barbican

THE London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Colin Davis began the season on excellent form with a glance back to one of the works they have played most frequently of late and a look towards future repertory. Beethoven's Violin Concerto, which has showcased several soloists recently, brought Midori and the LSO together here, and Walton's First Symphony whetted the appetite for the excursions into English music that Davis is promising, while also setting a standard for Walton and Vaughan Williams concerts this autumn.

In the Beethoven bold playing from every department of the orchestra, supported sonorously by no fewer than ten cellos and ten basses, was matched by the soloist, Midori. Her tone is bright and silvery at the top, metallic lower down, and very distinctive because of her fearless attack; perhaps it was even too hard at times in the slow movement. She is a highly expressive musician who pays meticulous attention to dynamics, but there was nothing calculating about this performance: the central episode of the finale had wonderful rhapsodic freedom, and she romped through the cadenzas with spontaneity.

Any worries that Davis, 70 today, is getting more stately in his conducting might have been confirmed by the excessively broad tempo he set at the opening, but they were swept aside by his surging account of the Walton. The pulsating rhythms of the first movement were quick to erupt at the brassy climaxes, and even in the busiest moments Davis kept the playing taut. The incisive brass section excelled itself here, and again in the mocking accents of the Scherzo. With its desolate Andante and nervy fanfares, Walton's masterpiece can be quite unsettling, but performed like this it made a reassuring start to the season.

JOHN ALLISON

CBSO/Rattle
Birmingham

THERE are several good reasons for introducing *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* with a popular tone poem by Richard Strauss — not the least of them being that a concert performance of a one-act opera is scarcely likely to attract a full house to the new season in Symphony Hall. Another, even better reason is that without Strauss's example Bartók's score could not have achieved the pictorial brilliance which so aptly and so crucially illuminates the emotional gloom.

But with Strauss's *Don Juan* readily available as a not entirely jocular examination of a related theme, *Till Eulenspiegel* seemed an oddly insensitive choice: an irresistible invitation not to take things seriously. To precede that with Mozart's Prague Symphony, however beautifully played, was overloading the programme and adding to the incongruity.

Not that Sir Simon Rattle and his colleagues approached *Bluebeard* with anything less than seriousness. Indeed, they were serious enough to include the spoken prologue which is nowadays better omitted.

Kristine Ciesinski's Judith was not so much serious as severe. There must be love as well as determination in her efforts to let the light in on her husband's dark secrets. Both she and John Tomlinson as an impressively solid and apparently immovable Bluebeard coped well with the Hungarian but, in spite of their protestations to the contrary, there was no relationship between them.

The most valuable aspect of the performance (which is to be repeated in Symphony Hall tonight) was Simon Rattle's compulsion to have his orchestra distinguish minutely and uncompromisingly between the shades of darkness in the Bluebeard psyche. They were not in the least grudging in their celebration of the virility which is discovered there, but this was an interpretation without illusions and with no consolations.

GERALD LARNER

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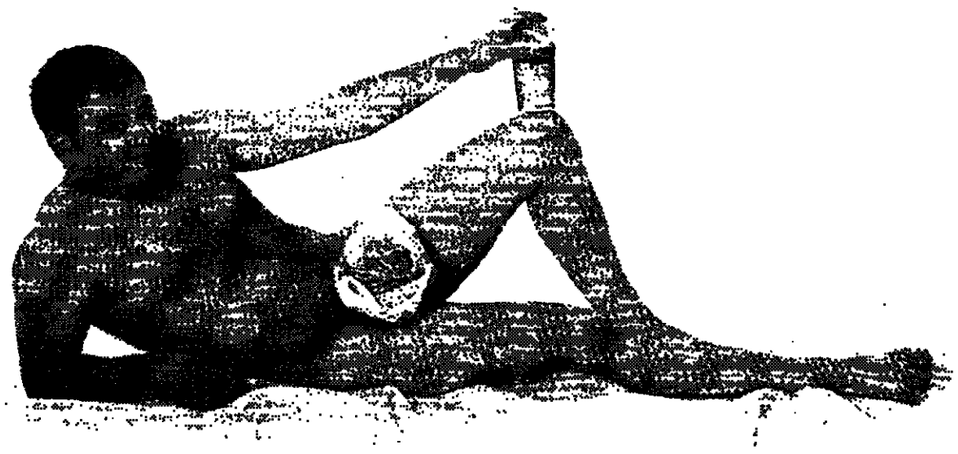
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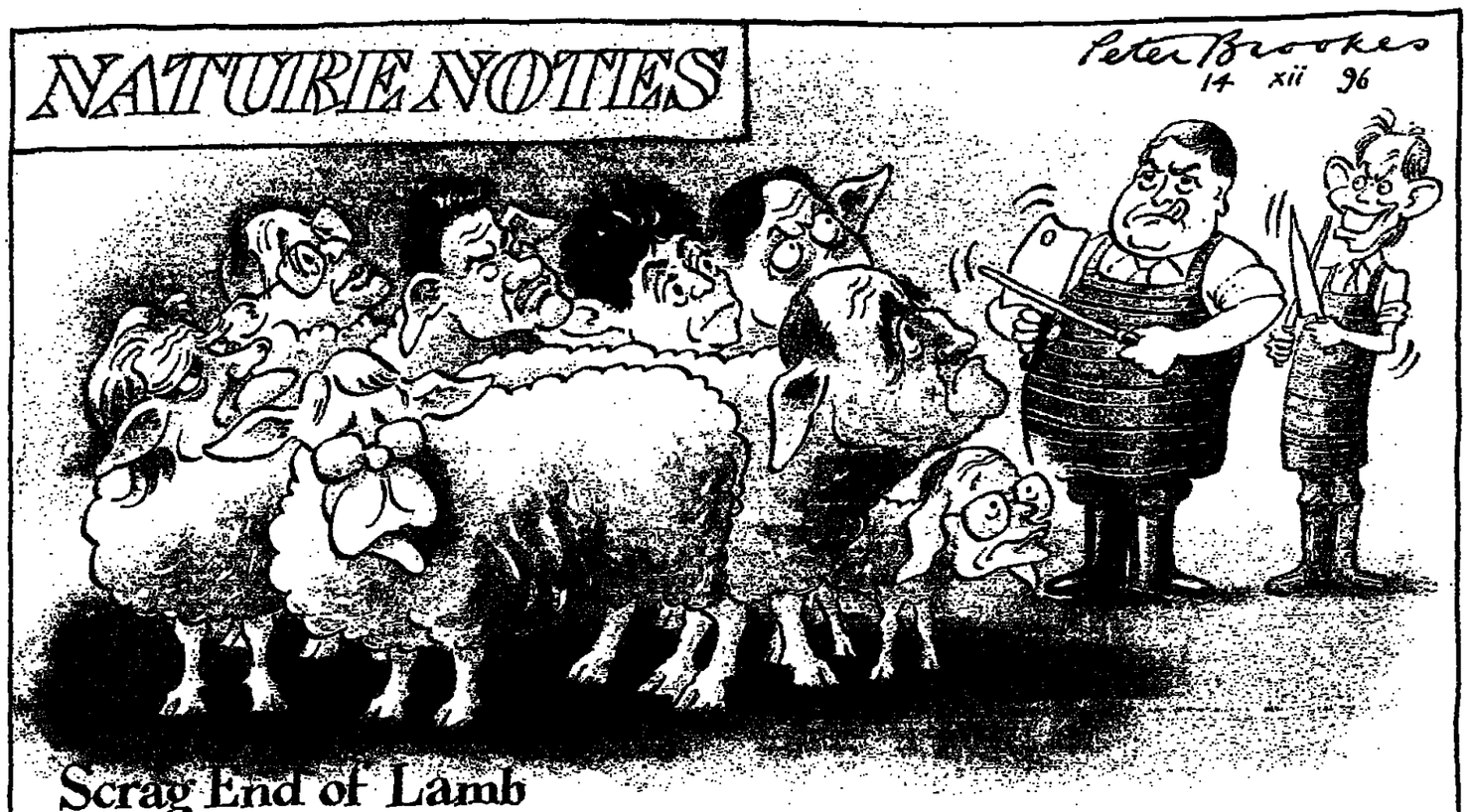
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Right foot forward, march

Michael Portillo on overcoming division and doubt: the challenges that face the Tory party in the 21st century



The beginning of the end: *Times* cartoonist Peter Brookes marks the Conservative loss of the Barnsley East by-election in *Nature Notes* (Little, Brown, £10)

With the Tory party reduced to 165 seats in Parliament, we must expect books with titles like *Whatever Happened to the Conservatives?* and *Is Conservatism Dead?* Those questions merit serious debate, but at this short distance from the election the first offerings at our bookstalls are not principally concerned with objective analysis. There are scapegoats to be reared, scores to be settled and spins to be spun.

Embittered politicians — even highly intelligent ones — write poor history. They tumble into propaganda. The book by Ian Gilmour and Mark Garnett traces the history of the Conservative Party since the war. In the preface the authors make their intention clear: to show how the Tories prospered as long as the party pursued "One Nation" policies. When under Margaret Thatcher it ceased to do so, say the authors, Britain was divided and impoverished and the Conservatives destroyed.

This produces a *1066 And All That* version of Tory history. There are "right" things that people did and "wrong" things. There was a "best Prime Minister" and a second best, and of course by implication a worst one. As in westerns, Conservatives appear in white hats (Churchill, Macmillan, Macleod, Gilmour and Clarke) and black hats (Thatcher, Howard, Lamont, Portillo, and, surprisingly, Major). Sir Edward Heath's hat is grey. There are "extremists", the "hard Right" and "Europhobes" (that is those who do not believe in a federal Europe) who battle with "moderates" and people of "common sense" (that is, those who do).

The main thesis, that Margaret Thatcher was an unbending ideologue who rejoiced in creating two nations, is echoed by John Gray, one of the two authors of *Is Conservatism Dead?* In particular, he points the finger at her Government's pursuit of "the mirage of the wholly free market".

There are problems with this thesis. First, Mrs Thatcher's Government may sometimes have talked unbridled free market, but it certainly didn't act it. Under Mrs T, ministers constantly vied to increase their budgets, especially in health, social security and education. We maintained regional grants, and fought fiercely to bribe inward investors into picking Britain. We created urban development corporations and huge training programmes. We strained to help British companies to win government orders at home and contracts overseas.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE TORIES
A History of the Conservative Party Since 1945
By Ian Gilmour and Mark Garnett
Fourth Estate, £25
ISBN 1 85702 475 3

IS CONSERVATISM DEAD?
By John Gray with David Willetts
Profile, £8.99
ISBN 1 86197 042 0

COLLAPSE OF STOUT PARTY
The Decline and Fall of the Tories
By Julian Critchley and Morrison Halcrow
Gollancz, £30
ISBN 0 575062 77 0

Secondly, if this was such a terrible period for the Tories and the country, how was it we kept winning elections? Special circumstances of the time, says Gilmour, unconvincingly. Thirdly, if our policies were "two nation", why did we triple the number of people in higher education and end up with a higher proportion of our people in work than other European countries? And fourthly, if our policies were such terrible election losers, why did the shrewd Tony Blair adopt low taxes, tight money, tight spending, privatisation and union reforms?

John Gray concedes that point but says that with Labour now immovably positioned in the middle ground the Tories will soon become extinct. Time will tell, of course, but historically it is usual for the two main parties to contest the middle ground without either joining the dinosaurs in their fate. The wheel of political fortune normally provides each party at intervals with a turn in government. That may well be the pattern for the years ahead. But in the Eighties the parties moved apart and the Conservative Party was astute to express itself in ideological terms, and not only won elections but convinced many governments abroad to adopt similar policies.

It paid a price for its rhetoric, eventually. As David Willetts records in his part of *Is Conservatism Dead?*, the Conservatives came to be seen as vandals destroying the institutions of the country. There were genuine problems in striking the right balance between modernising Britain and maintaining the institutions that Conservatives were meant to defend. At times, the choices made offended traditional feelings (eg, those concerning Bart's Hospital) and at other times, it was modernists who were outraged (eg, the Royal Yacht *Britannia*). But such choices fall to be made by all modernising governments, and Mr Blair will face them too.

Sir Julian Critchley (co-author with Morrison Halcrow of *Collapse of Stout Party*) is absolved of the charge of being modern. He traces his enthusiasm for a federal Europe back to the effects of postwar visits to Strasbourg with its "black and white heart" and "single spired cathedral", "unbelievably good food" and "ubiquitous Gewurztraminer". "It is not I who have changed," he says, "but my party," adding that after spending 27 years as MP for Aldershot, "now I am back in the real world and I do not even know the price of a first-class postage stamp".

In politics what he "enjoyed most was the gossip ... witty and unbelievably malicious". But the real world has spoilt Critchley's sense of humour. The book has only one good joke. On the day of the ERM debacle, John Patten made a speech in Critchley's constituency and annoyed him by arriving late and failing to mention the crisis. Critchley took his revenge in his vote of thanks by pretending John was Chris Patten, explaining "just how difficult it was to travel the 120,000 miles from Hong Kong and arrive on time in deepest Hampshire".

Only David Willetts, out of these six authors, sees or considers a future for the Tories. He lifts the banner of "civic Conservatism" and points to a Britain based on "little platoons", such as autonomous local state schools. His ideal Conservatism picks up again the themes of community and partnership, of duty, obligation and social interdependence about which Mrs Thatcher spoke with passion, years before Mr Blair had his first encounter with a focus group. But, says Willetts, where Mr Blair offers soft soap about "values", Conservatives have "principles", and where Mr Blair would centralise policy making, the backbone in the Tory model of a community is self-governing institutions.

Such subtleties matter, but may not be the stuff to guarantee election victories. The challenge for William Hague is to reassociate the Tory party with compassion and magnanimity, while emphasising important Conservative principles: to keep the State in check and encourage personal independence.

His task is even bigger than it seems. For what Gilmour and Critchley reveal with their pejorative descriptions of Tory opponents is the real cause of our present discontents: the complete failure between Conservaties to understand one another. It will require some months yet, perhaps years, before the history can be written with a view to promoting reconciliation, rather than entrenching division.

Michael Portillo was Secretary of State for Defence 1995-97.

Tricks of the trade

Magnus Linklater

A HACK'S PROGRESS
By Phillip Knightley
Cape, £17.99
ISBN 0 224 04399 4

I had always thought of Phillip Knightley as the quiet professional, meticulous, thorough, a serious investigator. I remember him as an anchorman among the pyrotechnic geniuses at the old *Sunday Times*.

Not at all, he tells us. He's been up to some of the worst tricks of the trade — invented stories, suppressed the truth, missed exclusives, been used by intelligence agencies. Much of journalism, he tells us, is a confidence trick played on an unsuspecting public. Reporters are at their worst when they operate in packs (a prescient point in view of the Diana tragedy), and news desks are more interested in having their own theories confirmed than in being told what actually happened.

All this makes for some good yarns as Knightley recalls his early days in Australia and Fleet Street. Later on, however, the charges become graver. Looking back at some of the great *Sunday Times* investigations of the Sixties and Seventies, he finds serious fault with many of them. He tells how the early revelations about Kim Philby, the third man in the Burgess-Maclean spy scandal and one of Insight's early scoops, were shown to SIS in advance, and were therefore, presumably, cleared by them. The thalidomide inquiry, he claims, failed the very victims it was meant to champion. And the Hitler Diaries were published despite Knightley's own warnings that they were almost certainly a hoax.


JEREMY YOUNG

No scoop: the Hitler diaries proved a hoax

The clear implication is that the great tradition of investigative journalism for which *The Sunday Times* once stood is a hollow one. But even Knightley's own evidence suggests the opposite. The detail uncovered by Insight about British and United States intelligence in the Fifties broke new ground, not just in the light it shed on hitherto forbidden territory, but in demonstrating how serious newspaper investigations could be conducted. Nothing on that level is being done in British journalism today. The detective work carried out by *The Sunday Times* on thalidomide was formidable. The team that stuck with it for a decade produced more scientific evidence than Distillers, who manufactured it, had ever collected themselves. Without that, the parents and children would never have won the compensation they finally achieved. As to the Hitler Diaries affair, the story would not have run if *The Sunday Times* had been allowed to investigate it properly rather than having to take it on, sight unseen.

The trouble with Knightley's conclusions is that they will be pounced on by cost-conscious managements and used as further justification for abandoning the dying art of investigative reporting. Insight at its best was a highly effective operation which cost a great deal less than today's tabloids spend on buying up royal exclusives. It would be a pity if Knightley's cautionary tales were used to undermine what is ultimately the most worthwhile form of journalism.

Firing the Canon

Tania Glyde

BODIES OF WORK
By Kathy Acker
Serpent's Tail, £11
ISBN 1 85242 425 7

Of my many least favourite literary expressions, the pompous, elitist phrase "The Canon" is one of the worst. "The Canon" consists of the "important" books you should have read in order to be a proper member of the Educated Establishment. After a writer has joined The Canon, he can, broadly (unless a Young Jerk reviewer is wishing to make his career) do no wrong.

However, just as the underground becomes the elite in very few jumps, so there are other canons occupying parallel political universes. A good example is those writers who are unassailably *correct* in their critiques of culture: William Burroughs, Georges Bataille, Alexander Trocchi, for example. Kathy Acker is a member of that group. It is a clever position to be in. To criticise these writers is to be reactionary, an upholder of bourgeois morality. I find this attitude as cabbalistic as that of the mainstream Establishment, but it is seductive.

And Kathy Acker is seductive. I admit that, for me, she is a kind of icon, as much as I believe in icons. The way she writes forces an identification with her. One moment you think "Yeah, just wha- I've always thought — to hell with all of them!" The next it's "All right all right, get on with it." This collection of cultural criticism is variable and full of powerful contradictions. Acker quotes de Sade, who says that a woman must be hypocritical and deceitful to survive in a man's world. Then she writes with rage about women's role in society, and yet at the same time fanatically quotes William Burroughs, her mentor, as if being fed ideas from a tube. Maybe the paradox is exciting, "unbourgeois".


Acker: seductive icon

The pieces on Peter Greenaway, Boxcar Bertha and copyright in the Net age are some examples of clear informative thought. *The Meaning of the Eighties* is also good but there is, for me, too much stuff here that dates from 1990 or before. So much has happened in art and culture since then it seems redundant to compile so much commentary that precedes it.

In the preface she says: "I'm not sure I like my essays." Well, it doesn't matter. Kathy Acker is one of those writers whose next work is always eagerly awaited.

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Ask the question, know the answer

A conceptual history finds Roger Scruton venturing into the dangerous ground between the absolute and the relative

TRUTH
A History
By Felipe Fernández-Armesto
Bantam, £12.99
ISBN 0 59304 140 2

All dialogue depends upon the concept of truth. To agree with another is to accept the truth of what he says: to disagree is to reject it. In ordinary speech we aim at truth, and it is only on the assumption of this aim that people make sense. But like all concepts on which thinking depends, the concept of truth is impossible to explain, since any explanation must already make use of it.

Likewise, to justify rational argument you must make use of rational argument, which is to assume what you have to prove, namely, that rational argument is justified. These obvious points of logic — which ought to bring the question to an end, by showing us that with concepts like truth, reason, and deduction and so on, we reach bedrock — now issue from the mouths of charlatans, as though they were definitive proofs of the subjectivity of truth, of the relative nature of rational argument, and of the general impossibility of objective knowledge. In fact they are proofs of the opposite. A concept that must be used even by the one who rejects it has the greatest possible title to objectivity. A procedure that must be employed even in the attempt to prove its own "relativity" has a validity which is not relative at all, but absolute.

Nowhere has the amateurish play with the concepts of truth and rationality done more damage than in the study of history, and Felipe Fernández-Armesto's history of "truth" is an historian's response to the problem. I place "truth" in inverted commas, since I do not believe that truth has a history, any more than *if* has a history, or *when*, or *not or all* — or any other concept without which nothing could be said. What Fernández-Armesto has in fact written is an agreeable romp through time and space, in search of the weird and not so weird things that people have thought about truth, and their constant attempts to avoid it. The most interesting pages in this work are those inspired by Malinowski, Lévi-Strauss and their fellow anthropologists, in which the author muses over the world.

Less interesting, perhaps, are the ventures into the history of philosophy, in which Fernández-Armesto gives an anecdotal, and not always accurate, account of the rise of modern logic, and the peculiar arguments that have been used to persuade the gullible that there is no such thing as objective truth, that all opinions are relative, that rationality is merely *our* rationality, and in short that anything goes.

This "trashing of truth", as Fernández-Armesto describes it, has had more effect on his own discipline than on science or philosophy, and this for a very good reason. As a leading disciple of Braudel and the *Annales* school of history, our author is well aware that history remains always to be rewritten, that dates and battles and kings are the flotsam on the deeper currents, and that the story will change with the point of view of the observer. So there may be some truth in relativism after all, since the God's-eye view of the past is unobtainable.

Of course, this does not license the irresponsible subjectivism of the Post-Modernists. It is still objectively true that war broke out in Europe in 1914, it is objectively true that millions of Jews were murdered in the Holocaust and so on.

But these facts can be understood only from a perspective that is necessarily selective, and one which forms patterns and pictures by filtering out information. Hence, historical study cannot have the character of a natural science: history is a work of interpretation, which will always fall short of giving the ultimate causes of things.

That is all that the "relativity" of historical analysis amounts to. But it is not all that it is taken to be by the Post-Modernists on the disciples of Foucault. For Foucault, the truth of a thought is conferred by the system of ruling ideas. The concepts, theories and rationality of an epoch are dictated by "power"; there is no criterion against which to assess them, save that provided by some rival power which challenges their ascendancy. History is therefore always rewritten in the interests of power, and your choice of historical theory is simply a political choice, motivated by your allegiance to the powers that contend for domination. That is the kind of damaging myth that Fernández-Armesto ought to be attacking. But he is respectful towards Foucault and his kind, and refrains from engaging with this new kind of sophistry.

Indeed, he is prepared to tolerate a measure of relativism in all human thinking, and believes — on what seem to me to be quite erroneous grounds — that Heisenberg, Gödel and Einstein have, between them, undermined the absolutism of mathematics and science. On the contrary, it seems to me. Such thinkers have merely reached bedrock and what they say is not relative to their own conceptions, but *if true, then true absolutely*. Even the theory of relativity is, if true, true absolutely.

Although Fernández-Armesto is right to worry about the trashing of truth, and about "the breakdown of confidence in the power of language to express it", it could also be that there is less in the arguments of the iconoclasts than meets his eye. It is worth pointing out, as he does not, that Plato decisively refuted Protagoras's relativism in the dialogue that bears that sophist's name, and that the arguments of Derrida, Rorty, and the rest are no better and for the most part far worse, than those of Protagoras. Indeed, in the case of Derrida, they are not arguments at all, but fits of quasi-psychotic wordplay which prove not that there is no objective reality, but only that Derrida does not belong to it.

Truth: a History is, meanwhile, a high-spirited vacation in a realm of dangerous ideas; the author's cultivated mind and inexhaustible appetite for curious facts make the journey agreeable and instructive. But it would be wise to go through a course of inoculations first.

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Malcolm Bradbury welcomes — with sorrow — the elegiac work that Kurt Vonnegut claims will be his last

Why he writes so good

Kurt Vonnegut is unmistakably a Hoosier. A Hoosier is a person from the Midwestern state of Indiana, a region of hog-farms, old industrial cities, small towns with architect-protected courthouse squares. It's the state of Hoagy Carmichael and Cole Porter, the shot-down gangster John Dillinger, the socialist Eugene V. Debs, and the homegrown people's poet James Whitcomb Riley, whose most famous lines recorded that "it takes a heap o' livin'/ To make a house a home".

Indiana, like the Midwest in general, has always produced its homegrown sages; and Vonnegut is one. He may, in the great diaspora, have become, after due pains and difficulties (journalism, advertising, car sales), one of America's best-known and most bittersweet writers. He may have been hailed, in the Fifties, as among the most inventive and original writers of modern science fiction (*Player Piano*, *Cat's Cradle*), and in the Sixties as one of the most experimental of Post-Modernists — above all for his remarkable and classic novel *Slaughterhouse-Five*, a realistic fantasy that traffics between the firebombing of Dresden and the imaginary planet Tralfamadore.

Yet, unlike the more streetwise or more explicitly literary of his contemporaries, at no point did he ever lose his folksy, regional, Midwestern voice, nor what went with it: a taste for moral aphorism, the instincts of a preacher and a guru. His stories looked forward and galactically outward, but they also looked back; to the Indianapolis of childhood, to the great stock of German-American relatives that shapes his life (*Timequake* is a paean to the extended family), to the Mid-American simplicities that lay, once upon a time, behind American scientific progress and the urban experience. Vonnegut has throughout been both a complex and an intensely simple, perhaps even a naive, writer; an explorer of grim futures whose voice was haunted by cultural and autobiographical memory.

So, in his later years, Vonnegut has become a kind of Hoosier Mark Twain. Twain's late life depression was legendary, though, of course, there were always those saltings of humour, those flashes of hope. A deterministic fatalism threatened everything; free will was gone, and the innocence of childhood choice and hope. The pure American and very democratic and demotic imagination reflected on misfortune, mortality, the waning of promise; the famous public writer reached out beyond the comic imagination to say life was a sick joke.

These too are Vonnegut's later years. He introduces *Timequake* by explaining he writes it at the age of 73, and that it's born out of a failed novel, worked on over the past ten years, and called *Timequake One*. He's discarded it in disappointment; this is the filleted fish. He also announces it as the last book he will ever write. He confesses to its, his, dismay and depression: "I'm a monopolar depressive descended from monopolar depressives," he announces, "That's how come I write so good."

Everywhere there is the flavour of elegiac finale. The core tale is a conceit about a "timequake", a stalling of the progressive impetus of the Universe, which occurs in February 2001. Everyone is returned backwards one decade, to the year 1991, and then forced to repeat and relive every detail of their lives (or deaths) — until, in a repeated 2001, the world picks up where it left off, free will "kicks in again", and the present laws of human choice are restored. The conceit is lively enough, though it's more the flavour of a story than a story, for *Timequake* is not a novel: it's a social and personal elegy, a work of nostalgia, a set of essay-like discourses, anecdotes, political observations, hung round the thread of this very filleted plot.

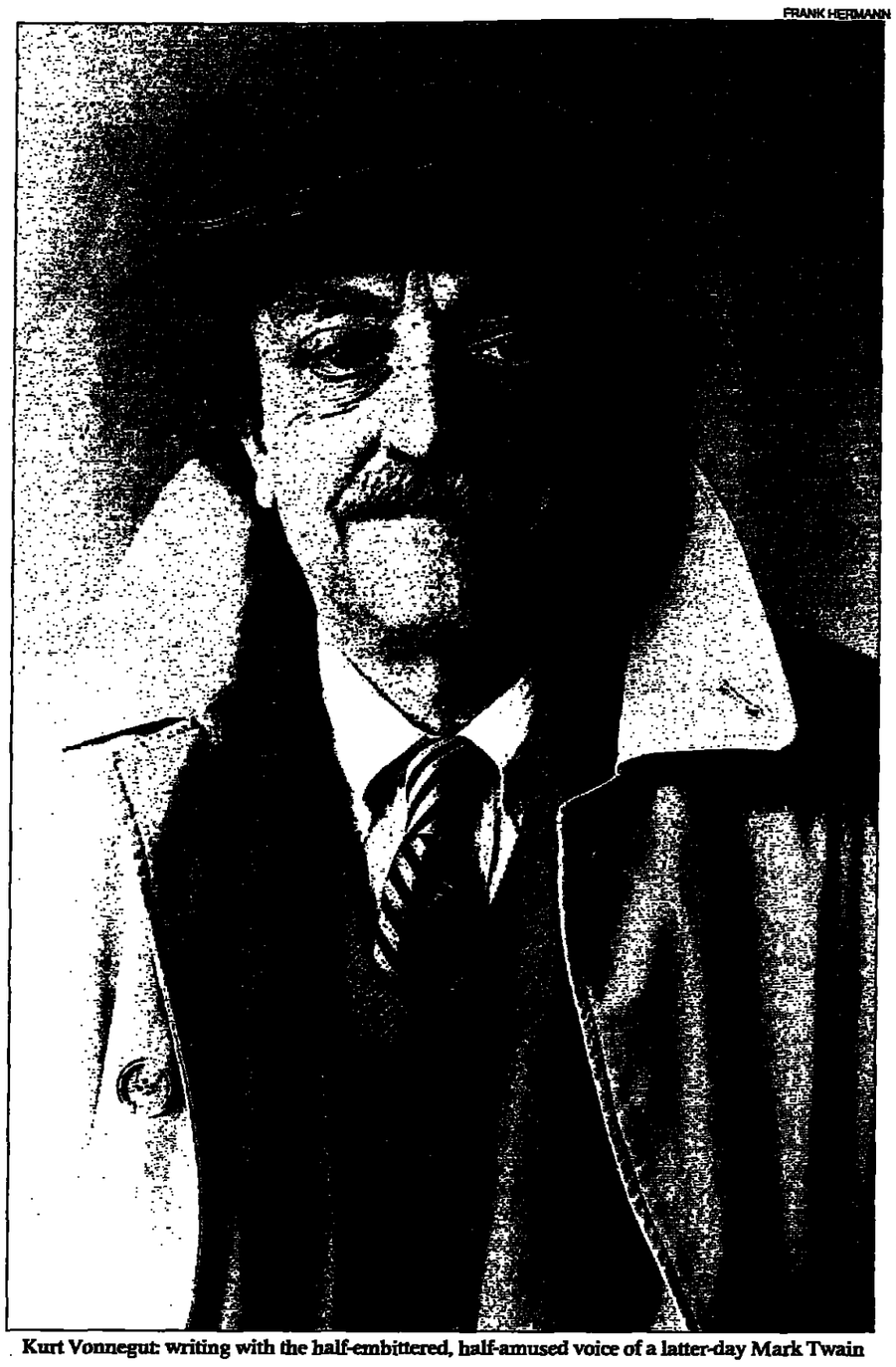
Kilgore Trout, Vonnegut's old alter ego, is here, as usual standing both outside and inside the story. As a wisdom-spouting old male bag-lady who deposits his unfinished or unpublished stories in a trash-can outside the now near-useless Academy of Arts and Letters, he's present to observe the new crisis of humanity — free will, of sorts, restored after a decade of automatism. He's also there to give his reflections on it at the final clambake, with Vonnegut, his other half, the successful author and dispenser of advice, at his right hand, and with death near at hand.

The notes of elegy sound everywhere; over the dying of books, the losing of the sense of history, the fading of socialism and good democracy, over the deaths of so many (real) relatives, friends, former lovers, over the world as cursed murderous madhouse, over life as, in Trout's key phrase, "a crock of shit". Perhaps those who have departed are the better served. Perhaps those who turn to religion for consolation are wiser than darkened humanists like Vonnegut, exposed to the world as it is.

In the new Bellow, in the new Mailer, we have found ourselves suddenly exposed to the self-consciously late voice of some of our most important American writers. Vonnegut's is bittersweet wisdom turned very near to idiosyncracy. There's an urgency of retelling, a way, now, of using the intersection of fact and fiction not to show the great playgrounds of fiction, but to say what is left. Vonnegut has said a good deal of it before, and, in literary terms, often better. *Timequake* is random, and often far too anecdotal for its own good. But if it is a farewell, it's a moving one, not least because it rescues a ceremonial, perhaps even a religious, thrill of hope at the end.

TIMEQUAKE
By Kurt Vonnegut
Cape, £15.99
ISBN 0 224 03640 8

FRANK HERRMANN



Kurt Vonnegut: writing with the half-embittered, half-amused voice of a latter-day Mark Twain

Wisdom of the fonts



BIBLIOMANE

WHAT are the commonest of human artefacts or works of art? I imagine that our most prolific creations are things we overlook as we look over them. In the room where I'm writing there must be a couple of billion of them, and they are what I am writing with, the atomic structure of literature: letters of the alphabet.

And yet, as David "Clear As" Crystal pointed out in his opening address to a typographers' congress at Reading University, surprisingly little has been done to classify letters across the world's languages and to investigate their workings. As he explained, linguistics has concentrated upon the structure of words and sentences, the sounds of speech (phonetics), and meanings (semantics); but there is no discipline of "graphetics" studying the marks we make.

This was a fine gauntlet to throw before a throng of people who will design, distort or rescue the forms of letters we shall be reading over the next 50 years. Which edition of a book we read affects our experience — that is why people care about good printing — but *how* does it affect us? And what do companies achieve when they revamp their liveries? The typographic signature affects the facility and mood of our reading, but is it ever part of the meaning?

Yes. For instance, it can turn a statement into a joke, as was demonstrated by the laughter that met Crystal's slide

Modern Alarms

Few people can read a black-letter edition of Chaucer. Many are uncomfortable with the long-s that was used before 1800, reading it as "f". Yet when we modernise, we lose what I believe was a deliberate play by John Donne in his erotic poem "The Flea":

> How little that, which thou deny'st me, is;
> It suck'd me first, and now sucks thee . . .

TYPOGRAPHY has consequences. In a talk about her husband, David Kindersley, Lida Cardozo said that his proposed lettering for motorway signs had been shown to be legible in smaller sizes than the face that was adopted — so his signs "would have blotted out less of the countryside".

THE conference ranged from a lecture on how early printers printed red initials, known as rubrication, to laptop demonstrations of Arabic and Japanese character-formation from a Qwerty keyboard. The cast included calligraphers, teachers, graphic designers (with rubricated hair or shoes), programers, printers and booksellers. Ther wus even a Simplified Speling crakpot hoose skeems wud leev evry old orther looking iliterat.

THE era of metal type is over, but a forum concentrated upon the handcut metal originals of thousands of typefaces that exist in archives such as those of the Rochester Institute of Technology in America and the Plantin Musuem in Antwerp. James Mosley of the St Bride Printing Library, near Fleet Street, spoke of the steel punches of a face such as Plantin as "the letters themselves". Whatever later typographers may do, these endure — like the meter rule in France which used to define what that measurement meant. There was talk of starting to catalogue these various holdings, so that they can help to inform future typographic design. It is always worth remembering that the handsomest of printed books, and some of the least dated, appeared in the 15th century.

JIM MCCUE

Remember the forgotten man

Two years ago I asked a group of first year undergraduates: "Who was PM before Mrs Thatcher?" Silence. Some faces showed incomprehension: a PM before Margaret Thatcher? Finally one of them muttered under his breath: Harold Wilson. I then asked them what the Winter of Discontent had been about. One of the youngest-looking said: "Unions wanting too much." Such is James Callaghan's obscurity and such remains the power of the Thatcherite history machine. Condemned by his own left wing as the classic machine politician, Callaghan's politics have been blamed by the Right for the decline of Britain. The challenge facing his official biographer is therefore substantial.

In 800 elegantly written pages Morgan meets this challenge and corrects an important imbalance in the literature on contemporary Britain. In the process Callaghan's flaws are revisited even as his virtues are given much-needed exposure.

Morgan portrays Callaghan as a moderniser constrained by his party. But there was a rigidity to his approach to politics that was founded not so much on a belief in a particular balance between the State and organised labour as on a faith in a mythologised sense of the moderation and fairness of the British. He found it difficult to cope with an age in which society changed and politics polarised. As Home Secretary in the 1960s, his instincts were liberal on hanging, prison reform and children — indeed, Morgan sees a consistent idealism in his view of children right through to his launch of the great education debate. But his response to the permissive society was to give warning that Roy Jenkins was being "too nice to those buggers".

The crunch in the conflict between his personal liberalism and his sense of the Labour movement's social conservatism was immigration. Personally committed to tolerance, when the issue clashed with his view of the needs of the core Labour vote, he delivered the desired restrictions. Morgan criticises and tries to understand: "Callaghan . . . felt that immigration was an issue to be handled in a way attuned to public opinion, rather than on the basis of abstract liberal theory." This is all well and good, but on hanging he was happy to follow the liberal theory against public opinion. Morgan does not explain what was different about race. Perhaps there were more votes in immigration control than in hanging people?

Aside from the murkier corners of his career, Morgan convincingly shows Callaghan as a substantial and interesting political figure. He was at his best as PM, better at making executive decisions than at political intrigue — the best example of his management of Cabinet, indeed, a textbook case of how to get difficult policies through a hopelessly divided Cabinet, being his conduct of the 1976 IMF crisis. His executive ability made him a global statesman of extraordinary standing and the key to his stature was, in Crossman's phrase, that he was rarely rattled. Until that is, the very end. His political skills deserted him when he made the decision, against much advice, to delay an election until after the winter of 1978-79.

Overall, this is a classic political life, critical, well-balanced, compellingly written; a traditional life and times treatment of a central figure of the age. No future group of undergraduates, or indeed, anyone interested in British politics since the war, will have any excuse for not knowing the name of old Labour's last Prime Minister.

Brian Brivati's life of Hugh Gaitskell will be published next month in paperback by Richard Cohen Books.

Brian Brivati

CALLAGHAN
A Life
By Kenneth O. Morgan
OUP, £25
ISBN 0 19 820216 4

THE TIMES/DILLONS BOOKER FORUM

Meet the Booker authors

YOU ARE INVITED to an evening of readings and discussion with five of the shortlisted authors for this year's Booker Prize. This Times/Dillons forum will be held on Monday, October 13. The six nominations are:

Quarantine, by Jim Crace (Viking, £16.99).
The Underground Man, by Mick Jackson (Picador, £15.99).
Grace Notes, by Bernard MacLaverty (Jonathan Cape, £14.99).
Europa, by Tim Parks (Secker & Warburg, £9.99).
The Essence of the Thing, by Madeleine St John (Fourth Estate, £9.99).
The God of Small Things, by Arundhati Roy (Flamingo, £15.99).

The forum will be held at Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, London SW1P 3NZ, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50) include an audio cassette featuring extracts from each of the books and information about the authors. Subject to demand, the event will be interpreted by sign language.

THE TIMES/DILLONS BOOKER FORUM

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Caught between error and terror



Death by misunderstanding? Bobby Sands's funeral, 1981

MY FIRST reaction on hearing about *Provos* was: "Oh, no. Not another book about the whole sordid business," but I was won over by Peter Taylor's diligent research, sceptical eye and fine reporting. Quite simply, Taylor is no fool, takes nothing he is told for granted and does not fall into the trap of glamorising terror, even inadvertently, as so many others do.

After dealing briefly with the events which led to the partition of Ireland, Taylor moves quickly to the substance of the book — a history of the Provisional republican movement, which describes how a terrorist movement, virtually non-existent in 1969, was regenerated by the civil rights campaign of the late Sixties and the violent Unionist reaction to it and how it grew to command both support and ambivalence across a wide section of nationalist Ireland.

Taylor places much of the blame for the rise of the "Provos" on the stupidity of successive Stormont and British governments, but he understands that it was cock-up rather than conspiracy that dictated many of the errors of judgment made by British governments.

Thus, dealing with "Bloody Sunday" in Londonderry in January 1972, when 13 civil rights marchers were shot dead by British paratroopers, Taylor extensively researches and interviews participants from both sides and then says: "What happened on 'Bloody Sunday' was not . . . a conspiracy but an operation that went terribly and fatally wrong. Basically the officers, sergeants and corporals of One Para lost control of their men." Anyone who has tried to look with an open mind at the background to, and the events of, that day would find it difficult to come to any other conclusion. Taylor sustains that level of objectivity throughout the book.

I can also, in many cases, confirm the accuracy of Taylor's research. Throughout *Provos*, he refers to a long-term intermediary between the "Provos" and the British Government, whom he describes as the "Contact". When dealing with the IRA ceasefire of 1974-76, which led eventually to the demise of the then leadership, Taylor describes how the Contact — worried by what he felt was British bad faith — had a meeting with Dave O'Connell, then the leading "Provos" political strategist, who was in Tyrone to speak at an Easter Sunday commemoration. I, then an IRA volunteer and commander of the local area, was also in Tyrone that weekend. I never once left O'Connell's side except to set up a meeting with the person whom I have long suspected played the role Taylor ascribes to the Contact.

That piece of research alone is an example of his brilliant investigative journalism. As he details the twists and turns within the incestuous and labyrinthine world of militant republicanism, Taylor never loses the plot.

There are, of course, weaknesses in this book. The present IRA chief of staff and his predecessor — who held the job for 13 years — are never even mentioned; and it is wrong to say that Gerry Adams ever had that position. But these are minor quibbles. Taylor's finishing lines are the most jaundiced of all. "At the conclusion of all my many detailed interviews with the 'Provos', I asked one final question: 'Is the "war" over?' Very few of them said it was." The words of the "Provos" should be well-heeded by the legions of wishful thinkers.

Sean O'Callaghan

PROVOS
The IRA and Sinn Fein
By Peter Taylor
Bloomsbury, £16.99
ISBN 0 7475 3392 X

The stories of his life

The condition of man, or rather manhood, is one that seems to be preoccupying Canadian writers no end this year. Robertson Davies set the scene before his death with his splendid *Cornish Trilogy*, but recently Carol Shields and Mordecai Richler have entered the fray. We all know that after a few millennia of living high on the hog the male sex is going wobbly, but here the voice from the attic (as Davies called it) is taking on an especially glum autumnal note.

Barney Panofsky is bent on writing an *apologia pro vita sua*. By his own admission a sadist, coward, thief and monster, the question is whether he is also the murderer of his best friend Boogie.

When the novel opens, he is considering suing a novelist and former acquaintance, Terry McIver, for libel. This sets our narrator up as a fine comic character, for, by his own account, Barney is both better and worse than McIver's jaundiced description — though in this case, the novelist comes off as worse than his victim.

Like its narrator, *Barney's Version* is more complex and intelligent than at first appears, if still a watered-down version of Roth and Bellow. Abandoned by his last great love, Miriam, Barney structures his story by reminiscing about each of his three wives.

First comes Clara, the mad and posthumously famous poetess he meets in Paris in the 1950s. The Paris chapters are the least convincing, being mired not so much in nostalgia as self-consciousness. Like too many other male writers, from Wilde to Martin Amis,

Amanda Craig

BARNEY'S VERSION
By Mordecai Richler
Chatto & Windus, £16.99
ISBN 0 7011 6272 4

Richler is a comic writer who sprays his personality on his fiction like a tomcat. The result is that either the characters all sound the same, or they fail to come alive.

Hilarity strikes with the second Mrs Panofsky ("life for her was an exam to be passed"), a Jewish princess of monstrous materialism and self-pity whom Barney marries in the attempt to conform to type. Her monologues, alongside Barney's spoof letters to Miriam's current lover, save the novel from bathos. He sees Miriam at his wedding, falls instantly in love, and receives the first of many rebuffs. Eventually they marry and have three children, but not until Barney has stood trial for shooting Boogie after finding him in bed with the ghastly Mrs Panofsky.

This is not, however, a plot-driven novel, but one which has aspirations to the trickier, post-Nabokovian kind. As in Richler's Booker-shortlisted *Solomon Gursky Was Here*, the aim is to portray a man's life. It fails largely because of the unevenness of tone, a sliding into slapstick which is not consistent with a deeper purpose. Life may be absurd, and nobody ever truly understands anybody else, but for a novelist to expound this over 424 pages is not a version of Beckett's endgame but a *reductio ad absurdum*.

THE TIMES ON SATURDAY



52-page guide to the best arts, books, music, cinema and theatre
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HOLIDAYS

A DOURO RIVER cruise for a day is included in a four-day break to Oporto in Portugal on offer next month from Unicorn Holidays for £408 a person. Price also includes Friday morning flights from Gatwick and three nights' B&B at a five-star hotel. Details: 01582 834400.

■ BRITISH AIRWAYS Holidays is cutting the price of a week at Long Bay Beach Resort in the British Virgin Islands to £825 during October. Departures are on Sundays to San Juan and the price includes flights and transfers. Details: 01293-723161.

■ THE DOMINICAN Republic for £504 a person for a fortnight's all-inclusive holiday is on offer from Last Stop Holiday Shop. Fly from Manchester on October 27. Details: 0541 503400.

■ CRYSTAL ITALY is offering holidays in Tuscany next month at savings of up to £378 a couple. Accommodation in the Villa Bardeggiano farmhouse, and including return flights to Pisa and car hire on October 4, costs £369 a person a week and £499 a person for two weeks, a saving of £189. Details: 0181-390-5554.

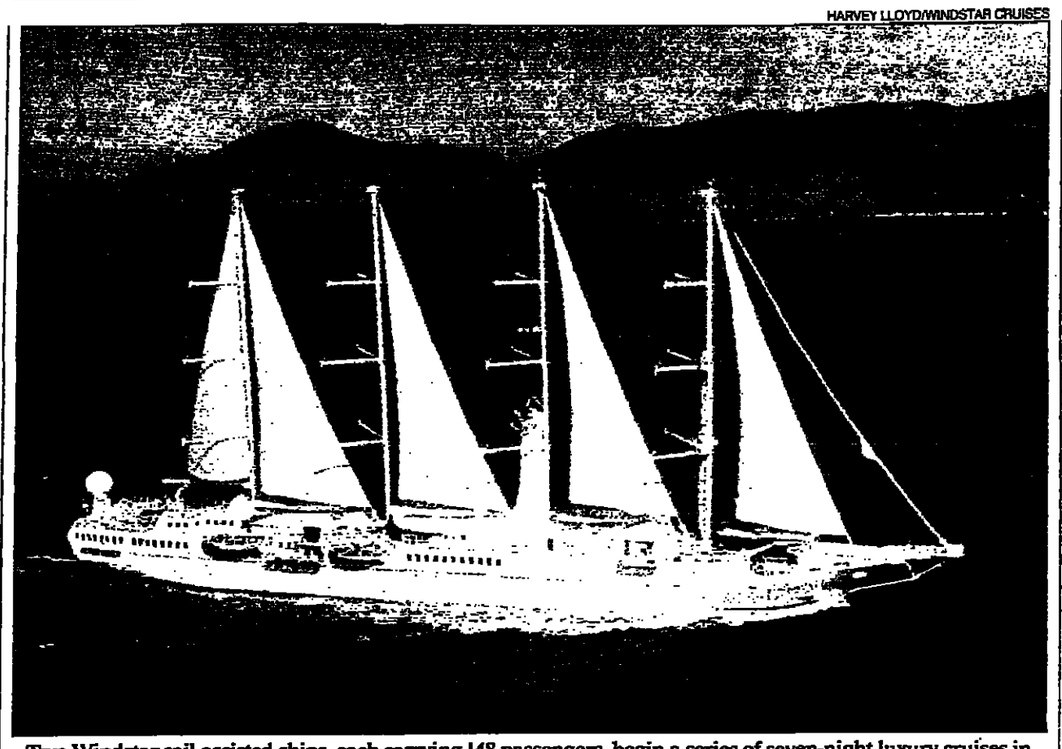
■ WALKING in the Alpujarras, the spectacular and hilly farming region of southern Spain, is available for a week from October 11 for £425 a person from Waymark Holidays. The price includes return flights and half-board. Details: 01753 516477.

■ SOUTH Africa for a week from £499 a person, with accommodation at Breakwater Lodge, Cape Town, and London return flights, is available from the African Experience. Details: 0990 168246.

■ SEVEN NIGHTS' self-catering on the Greek island of Lefkas is available through Kosmar for £189. Departures are from Gatwick on October 5. Details: 0181-368-6833.

■ FOUR WEEKS, full-board, is available to couples, at Benidorm's Vista Oro hotel, from January 3 for £404 a person, including flights from Gatwick, a saving of £71 on the brochure price. Details: Lunn Poly travel shops.

HARVEY LLOYD/WINDSTAR CRUISES



Two Windstar sail-assisted ships, each carrying 148 passengers, begin a series of seven-night luxury cruises in the quiet islands of the Lesser Antilles from November 1. Prices, which start at £2,247, include air fares to and from Barbados. Details: Adam & Harvey Group 0171-628 7711

HOTELS

SPEND a traditional Christmas at the Lucknam Park country house hotel near Bath, in Wiltshire, complete with carols, midnight mass and Father Christmas arriving in a horse-drawn carriage. The three-night all-inclusive break costs £670 a person based on double occupancy. Details: 01225 742777.

■ A THREE-course pre-theatre supper is available from the Savoy Hotel's River Restaurant for £28.50 a person. The restaurant is also hosting big band-era dinner dances on certain Saturday nights at a cost of £40 a person. Details: 0171-420 2698.

■ WOOD HALL in West Yorkshire has a two-night country pursuits weekend of clay pigeon shooting, hawking, badger watching and fishing. Cost is £85 a person a night including dinner, for a minimum two-night stay. Details: 01937 587271.

■ WEEKEND rate at the Novotel Hammersmith in London is £59 an adult a night, based on double occupancy, including breakfast and dinner. The offer is available through Superbreak Mini-Holidays and children stay free with two adults. Details: 0161-238 5257.

■ BODYSGALLEN Hall in Llandudno in North Wales is joining with the National Trust for a two-night "house party" weekend on November 7-8. The cost, including private tours of local historic houses and gourmet dinners at Bodysgallen, costs £290 a person. Details: 01492 584466.

■ THE CIRAGAN Palace Hotel in Istanbul, part of the Kempinski hotels group, has launched two new luxury honeymoon programmes available until the end of the year. Prices start from £315 a room a night for the deluxe package. Details: 0800 868588.

■ THISTLE Hotels is offering a choice of special golfing breaks at nine of its Scottish hotels, with prices starting from £195 a person for three nights' half-board accommodation and three rounds of golf. Details: 01294 274272.

■ THE SPREAD Eagle Hotel in West Sussex is holding a Great Mushroom Hunt on the weekend of October 24-25. Cost is from £175 a person for two nights including certain meals and a guided mushroom tour. Details: 01730 816911.

■ THE TENTH-floor restaurant at the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington, called The Tenth, is starting a series of seasonal gourmet evenings on October 10. The seven-course menu costs £75 a person. Details: 0171-937 8000.

■ WEEKEND guests at Slaley Hall Hotel near Newcastle can take part in its mini golfing tournament. The break costs £375 a couple, based on double occupancy. Details: 01434 673350.

CRUISES

SEVEN NIGHTS on board the world's biggest cruise ship, the *Carnival Destiny*, including flights, all meals and entertainment and one night in Miami, is available for £885 a person plus £135 airport and port taxes. The cruise starts on November 2 and the ship visits Cozumel in Mexico, Grand Cayman and Ocho Rios in Jamaica. Details: 0171-729 1929.

■ FLIGHTS leave London on January 17 to join Royal Caribbean's *Majesty of the Seas* for a nine-night cruise of the western Caribbean, including a call at the private resort of Labadee in Haiti. Savings of up to 36 per cent are being offered. An ocean-view cabin, for example, now costs £1,099, plus taxes, compared with the fixed price of £1,729. Details: 0800 018 2020.

■ THOMSON Cruises is offering a 14-night Cruise and Stay holiday from Palma, Majorca, throughout October and November from £549. The price includes flights, transfers, all taxes and tips on board ship and seven nights in a beach resort. Details: 0990-502562.

■ A FOUR-DAY voyage to the Norwegian ports of Bergen, Haugesund and Stavanger is offered by Color Line from £70 a person, including accommodation and buffet breakfast, from the beginning of November. Depart from Newcastle on Saturday or Tuesday. A double-bed suite for the same cruise costs £248. Details: 0191-2961313.

■ HOLLAND America Line is offering savings of up to 50 per cent for fly-cruise holidays that have been booked at least 60 days before departure. A nine-day cruise, with flights, to the Bahamas, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands costs from £849, plus £130 air and port taxes. Details: 0171-613-3300.

FLIGHTS

CATHAY PACIFIC has a special Hong Kong excursion priced at £619 from London or £549 from Manchester, reducing to £519 and £459 respectively from November 1. Details: 0345 581581.

■ MAERSK AIR has introduced a £78 seat-sale fare between Birmingham and Amsterdam. Details: 0345 222111.

■ BRITISH MIDLAND has seat-sale excursions from London Heathrow to Cologne £89, Copenhagen £89, Frankfurt £99, Nice £129, Oslo £109 and Rome. Details: 0345 554 554.

■ THE LOW-COST carrier Debonair on September 29 adds a third daily service to Munich from Luton. Fares start at £69 one-way. Details: 0500 146200.

■ UNITED AIRLINES has trimmed its business-class return fare to Delhi from London — from £2,620 to £1,965. Details: 0181-990 9900.

■ CAMPUS TRAVEL is marketing a £99 excursion between London Heathrow and Madrid. Details: 0171-730 3402.

FERRIES

BRITTANY Ferries has introduced a £59 three-day fare on all routes to France, dropping to £39 next month. The offer, for a car and up to five passengers, is available on selected sailings to Caen, Cherbourg, St Malo and Roscoff. Details: 0990 360360.

■ SWANSEA Cork Ferries has a £145 return fare on sale until December 15, to include a car and up to five adults. Details: 01792 456116.

■ LEGOLAND with Scandinavian Seaways, leaving Harwich on October 4, from £123 a person (children, £103), includes three nights on board, breakfasts, transfers and park entrance. Details: 0990 333111.

■ RED FUNNEL is offering a five-day return ticket between Southampton and Cowes for £45 until December 31, available on sailings after 10am on weekdays, any time at weekends. The price covers a car and up to four passengers. Details: 01703 334010.

■ IRISH Ferries Holidays has a seven-night tour of Ireland from £294 a person before October 31. The price, based on two sharing, includes ferry from Holyhead to Dublin with car and B&B. Details: 0990 170000.

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BA drops inflight computer plan

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

BRITISH AIRWAYS has been forced to abandon plans to spend £100 million on fitting an interactive inflight entertainment system into every seat in its long haul fleet.

In common with many other airlines around the world BA has admitted that claims from electronic companies that they could produce "user friendly" systems which would allow passengers to choose movies, play games, gamble, shop, telephone or send messages did not work in reality.

"We all assumed that we would be able to make a leap into the brave new world," said one senior BA manager. "But we have discovered that we can't recreate the system available to home-based pc users in an aircraft. It is just too complex a problem."

It was quickly discovered that the computing power needed for such a system would be ten times greater than that needed for the aircraft's own "autoland" blind landing system and that to provide each seat with enough energy to link it to satellites would be more expensive and far more complex than all the equipment needed to fly the plane.

Just one element — gambling, for example — needed a system that would read a credit card, validate it via a satellite, automatically deduct, or occasional credit, the card with its owner's wins and losses and, crucially, be so dependable that no one could later claim they had been duped by the computer.

Hand sets were produced which were three times bulkier and more complex than a television "zapper" and the cost began to spiral out of control.

Then British Airways realised that many of its passengers had never seen a computer before and even sophisticated business and first class pasengers found difficulty in operating the comparatively simple equipment now installed.

Now plans to test a prototype of the new system have been dropped and senior managers believe it will be at least two years before a system that is simple and robust enough to work in the air will be ready.

In the meantime a much less complex system will shortly be tested using videos carried on the aircraft and without gambling and shopping facilities.



The choice of cars will include a 1912 Rover 12hp, originally owned by Lord Catto, and an elegant 1965 Rover P5

Bed and running-board

BY STUART BIRCH

GUESTS at the Lygon Arms Hotel in the Cotswold village of Broadway will soon be able to request an extra menu — for cars.

The Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon, Warwickshire, the largest purpose-built road transport museum in the UK, is to supply classic and Edwardian cars for tourists using the hotel.

Fred Coultas, the centre's managing director, believes no other British museum offers anything like it: "Cars should be used and enjoyed and I wanted some of our vehicles back on the road. So beginning next spring, we have decided to make several available, initially with a chauffeur and including a rare and very valuable 1912 Rover. As the scheme matures we will also offer self-drive cars such as the Austin-Healey 3000, Triumph TR3A, MGB, Riley RME and 1.5, Morris Minor and Wolseley saloons from the Thirties and Forties."

Cars that form the core of the Centre's collection are too precious to be put on the self-drive menu so Mr Coultas is building up a parallel collection. The Centre is working in association with the Gladstone Carriage Company, which is responsible for operating the scheme and introducing it to tourists. The Lygon Arms is just a start and there are plans to expand to other major hotels.

"At first, we will be offering a chauffered tour of the Cotswolds tailored to visitors' specific needs," explains Mr Coultas. "They may wish to concentrate on historic houses, elegant gardens or particular areas of interest. The choice of cars will include our 1912 Rover 12hp. It was originally owned by Lord Catto who was Governor of the Bank of England. If they want something a little more modern we have an elegant 1965 Rover P5 3.0 litre which was used in Switzerland from new until this year when it was donated to the Centre."

The Lygon Arms programme will be for two people and include two nights' accommodation and a one-day trip in a chauffeur driven Heritage Centre car including lunch. Prices start at about £450 per person. Longer trips with a chauffeur are planned and self-drive cars could be hired for up to two weeks.

"Most cars will be post-Second World War models, simply because they tend to be easier to drive and will cope more easily with a week or two's holiday use," says Mr Coultas. "Drivers will get some instruction before setting off. We will arrange insurance."

Mr Coultas says that the accent of the new project — particularly the chauffeur-driven element — will be on quiet, steady driving, and raising international awareness of the Heritage Centre.

"By using our cars in this way, we will have a 'living' collection. We have more than 400 vehicles with up to 200 on display, including a special presentation of gas turbine-powered Rovers — among them the Rover-BRM raced at Le Mans in 1965 and driven by Graham Hill and Jackie Stewart — and Jet 1, which for many years was an exhibit at the London Science Museum. We also have the first MG, the first Mini and even the first MGF."

Cruise lines start price war in Caribbean

INTENSE competition has forced cruise companies to offer substantial discounts in the Caribbean this winter, *Catherine Stott writes.*

Costa Cruises announced a cut in the starter price of a nine-day fly-cruise aboard *Costa Victoria* from £1,060 to £814 between December 6 and January 31. As a result, last week was their busiest ever. Similarly, Holland America is trimming nine-night fly cruises aboard *Westerdam* from a starter price of £1,235 down to £969.

Bill Gibbons, director of the Passenger Shipping Association, denied that the market was saturated. "There isn't an overcapacity, just a lot *more* capacity as in the late autumn, early winter, many more ships migrate there from the Mediterranean and Alaska.

"Also, there is now more capacity specifically dedicated to the UK market — Thomson Cruises will have two ships there this winter. For the past two years, American-based operators have been taking the UK market much more seriously. Their cruise growth rate is down to less than 4 per cent a year." The upmarket Holland America price cut confirms this. "We felt we ought to have a ship in the Caribbean with a very good lead-in price to tempt first-time cruisers from the UK. Once we've got hold of passengers they tend to stay with us."

Though almost all companies have early-booking incentives, many are loath to discount unsold accommodation openly. It smacks of failure.

The UK boom is continuing to exceed expectations. In the past five years there has been a 150 per cent growth, making it the fastest-growing sector of the industry. The average passenger age also appears to be going down by a year each year; it is currently 54.

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A sense of unease is spreading through the travel industry. Suddenly, the millions of people who use Britain's roads, railways and airlines each day are questioning the ability of the professionals to provide them with the one thing they demand above all else — safety.

Some will doubtless argue that it is an overreaction to a few isolated incidents, but there is a real tension out there that the travel industry must address.

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, a passenger in a chauffeur-driven limousine, was the most dramatic reminder of the risks of car travel. Shortly beforehand, however, there had been a flurry of reports of near misses in the air including one involving two BA jets, which was probably the closest we have ever been to a mid-air catastrophe.

> 'We still all tend to distrust machines'

Then two women were killed in a coach crash on the M6 while on their way to Buckingham Palace to lay flowers. And last week there was the train crash at Southall that killed six and injured more than 150.

It is a natural reaction, perhaps, to blame equipment failure or the system itself. But all too often the real cause lies in the weakest link in the chain — a human being.

No matter how safe the Princess's Mercedes-Benz was, it could not withstand hitting a concrete pillar at high speed — nothing could. The air misses would almost certainly have been avoided if the aircraft had been fitted with the latest anti-collision device, but if a controller tells the wrong aircraft to descend to the same height as another in the crowded skies over Britain, there is every chance of a smash.

And though nobody yet knows for certain what happened at Southall, if it is shown that the driver missed a series of warning signals, then how far should we go towards ensuring that a machine takes over the responsibility for safety?

As computers and electronics become ever more sophisticated, it is technically possible to remove the human element from the controls altogether. If we accept that humans will sometimes make mistakes or do something stupid, then perhaps we should indeed place our trust in the machines.

All aircraft are being fitted with the TCAS anti-collision device, for example. Cars can have computers to prevent them from getting too close to a vehicle in front. And, of course, trains can be fitted with equipment that will take over if the driver falls asleep or misses a signal.

But is this what we want? And can we afford it? Even if machines are shown beyond doubt to be safer and more reliable than humans, travellers are always likely to want the reassurance of knowing that a human is playing the major part in controlling the car, ship, aircraft, coach or train.

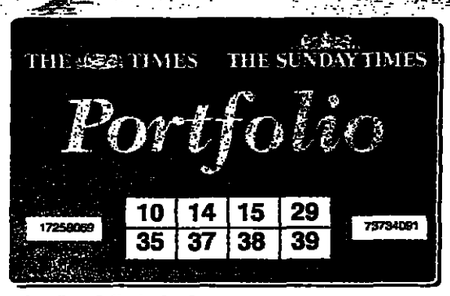
We still distrust the machine — even if it is less likely to make mistakes than the most highly trained human. Ultimate safety may mean removing the human hand from the controls entirely — but is that a price we are prepared to pay?

REWARDING TIMES

PLAY PORTFOLIO £200,000 TO BE WON

£2,000 TO BE WON TODAY — TURN TO THE EQUITY PRICES, PAGE 33

Start playing new Portfolio, an exciting opportunity to play the stock market without getting your fingers burnt. You can win £2,000 a day six days a week in *The Times*, and you can play every Sunday in *The Sunday Times* to win £5,000. Better still, there is a £10,000 weekly prize, if you play Portfolio in both papers, seven days a week. Playing Portfolio is easy and fun. Every week companies' share prices go up and down in the real world of the Stock Exchange. So you can experience the excitement of the stock market swings, but without the risks.



Yesterday's winners: Mr G Pieperse of Billericay, Essex and Mrs C Sharpe of York. They won £1,000 each.

HOW TO PLAY

- On each individual Portfolio gamecard there are eight numbers printed in a grid. (See example, above)
- These numbers represent eight out of 44 companies listed on the Portfolio panel (see Equity Prices, page 33).
- The eight are your "Portfolio of Shares".
- The 44 companies are taken from the hundreds whose shares are listed on *The Times* Equity Prices page every day.
- Simply check the share price movement (+ or -) of your eight Portfolio shares.
- When you have checked all eight share movements and entered them on to the Portfolio panel on page 33 add them up to obtain your plus or minus total.
- When adding up your total, ignore fractions, ie enter 16½ as 16 (the symbol ... equals no change).
- If your overall total exactly matches the points required in the Daily Portfolio Dividend, printed on the Portfolio panel on page 33, you win or share the £2,000 daily prize.

WEEKLY ACCUMULATOR GAME

The weekly accumulator game started in *The Times* on Monday. To play the weekly accumulator game simply add up your daily Portfolio totals, Monday to Sunday. If your accumulator total matches exactly the weekly portfolio accumulator dividend, published in the *The Sunday Times*, you win or share the weekly accumulator prize of £10,000.

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE

Claims for *The Times* daily Portfolio dividend must be made to the Portfolio claims line on 0171-481 3388 between 9.30am and 3pm today. No claims can be accepted outside these hours and you must claim your prize the day you win. You must have your card with you when you claim. Other persons can claim on your behalf provided they have your card. No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours. In the event of more than one valid claim for any prize, that prize will be divided equally among the winners.

*You can get a Portfolio card by calling the card request line on 0171-481 3355 during normal office hours. Cards are also available at selected newsagents.

THE TIMES

TENNIS

Bjorkman serves notice that end is nigh for Becker

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MUNICH

IT WAS not so much a homecoming as a rude awakening. Boris Becker, the city's favourite son, was routed without ceremony here yesterday as a summer of inactivity left him helpless to counter the fierce hitting of Jonas Bjorkman. In almost certainly his last appearance in the Compaq Grand Slam Cup, Becker departed tamely against an opponent supposedly jaded from his Davis Cup exploits for Sweden over the weekend.

Becker has been plagued by setbacks since he announced his withdrawal from the grand slam picture at Wimbledon in July. An injured ankle — coupled with the death of his manager, friend and the inspiration behind this tournament, Axel Meyer-Wolden — left Becker short of tournament play and, therefore, ill-prepared for competition this intense. He was duly humbled 6-3, 6-2 in as painful an hour as he can ever have experienced on court.

The lesson summarily served on Becker is that he has surely reached the end of the road. He spoke of a love for the game: a love for simply putting racket to ball. Despite his recognition that he can no longer compete at the big tournaments, there are millions who love Becker too much to see him humiliated.

His mind, as active as ever, allowed him to reconcile this drubbing to circumstances alone. But the remnants of his once-dominant game lay shattered before him as Bjorkman reduced him to shredding his racket-strings on the net-post in frustration. Throughout the match, Bjorkman played the hound to his opponent's stag. Once he snared Becker's heel, he would not relinquish his grip.

This sad denouement seemed implausible when Becker advanced to a 3-1 lead. Suddenly, however, Bjorkman found the antidote to Becker's venomous service. A series of spiteful returns, coupled with unforced errors from Becker, saw the Swede reel off seven games in succession. Even Becker's self-remonstration lacked the passion of old.



Becker: humiliated

This $6 million event was designed to elevate the four grand slam tournaments further beyond the rest of the tennis tour. In that respect, Becker's wild-card entry, even as defending champion, was always contentious. His grand slam record this year is poor but his perennial presence has been integral to the success of this tournament.

He spoke of accepting a wild card again next year if he was in better form — although, as he admitted afterwards: "Last time I talked at this tournament, it was as the winner. Now I lost three and two in the first round." For Becker, two months short of his thirtieth birthday, the past ten months have not been kind.

Three times a Wimbledon winner, and still the youngest on record, Becker will play in Vienna and Hong Kong in the coming weeks before assessing his form. He also intends to play competitively in advance of Germany's Davis Cup tie in April — in which he hopes to represent his country.

On retiring completely, however, he appears as uncertain as are all great sportsmen unwilling to recognise their waning strength. He wants to give himself one last chance.

In contrast to Becker's declining powers, Patrick Rafter looks ready to scale the peaks. The US Open champion was full of invention as he brushed aside Thomas Muster 6-3, 6-2 in an entertaining match.

Bjorkman's opponent in the next round will be Pete Sampras. The world No 1 beat Felix Mantilla, of Spain, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2. And Petr Korda led Gustavo Kuerten 6-3, 5-3 when the latter retired with an injured ankle. Meanwhile, Greg Rusedski, who defeated Todd Woodbridge in three sets on Tuesday night, must wait until tomorrow before tackling Yevgeni Kafelnikov in the quarter-finals.

Richardson moves up

ANDREW RICHARDSON, the 23-year-old Lincolnshire left-hander, yesterday moved up 38 places in the ATP tennis rankings to become Britain's No 3 player behind Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman.

Richardson is now ranked No 144 in the world after winning his first ATP Challenger title in Urbana, Illinois, last week.

His victory lifted him above Chris Wilkinson, of Southampton, who is now ranked No 156, and Mark Petchey, of Essex, who is ranked No 158.

Sam Smith, 25, from Essex, retained her ranking of No 97 in the WTA women's rankings. Karen Cross is ranked No 155, Lorna Woodroffe No 157, Lucie Ahl No 171, Julie Pullin No 173 and Shirli-Ann Siddall No 192.

GAVIN FOGG



Ratcliffe ploughs through the water during one of his gruelling training sessions

Ratcliffe faces ultimate test of his rapid rise

Alix Ramsay meets a man who is making a splash in the tough world of canoeing

Most young lads growing up in Tyldesley, near Manchester, dream of becoming the next Ryan Giggs or David Beckham and earning a gilt-edged living in football. Not so Paul Ratcliffe. Instead, he grew up with his sights set on the less lucrative and glamorous world of canoeing.

"I suppose it didn't help that I was always a City fan," he said, trying to explain why he chose to devote his life to kayaks and paddling. It all happened by chance. In 1981 Ratcliffe's father, Bob, took his two young sons, Paul, 8, and Mark, 5, to watch the world slalom championships in Wales.

It was the year that Richard Fox won the first of his five world titles and Paul was impressed. By the time he had acquired the great man's autograph later that day, he was hooked.

Now, Ratcliffe is going for his first world slalom title at the age of 23. The championships are being held in Brazil and over three days this weekend he faces a gruelling schedule. Tomorrow around 100 competitors will make two runs down the 600 metre course with the fastest 20 going through to the final. On Saturday, they will do it all again to decide the team competition and on Sunday they hold the two races that will decide the medals in the individual final.

Just to make things a little more challenging, the rules have changed. In the past only the better of the two runs counted towards a competitor's placing, now both runs are combined and the joint time decides the winner. There is no room for error.

"Our schedule is a bit like that of an 800 metre runner, except that for us it is like running on a moving track," Ratcliffe said. "It is hard to be consistent over two runs because white water is not always the same both times you go down it. It's like gymnastics on water with different manoeuvres and techniques for different obstacles and using both speed and endurance.

"Each river in the separate championships is different. We have to go through the gates in a set order, but it's working out the quickest way between them that is the challenge — we don't get a practice run, we're straight into the race."

'It is like being an 800m runner, but we run on a moving track'

The course covers 25 gates, some red, some green. The red ones have to be negotiated against the current, and there are a minimum of six of these, while the green ones go with the flow. Hitting a gate carries a time penalty of 0.2sec, missing it means curtains with a penalty of 50sec. It looks like someone trying to park a large car in a small space at high speed while the traffic warden has the meter running at double-fast time. Twenty five times.

Apart from the gates, the main obstacles in Ratcliffe's path to a gold medal are Scott Shipley, from the United States, Ian Wiley, from Ireland, and "the German team". But Ratcliffe is still the man to beat. At the end of last season he won the World Cup final that earned him a No 1 ranking for this season and so far he has won two World Cup meetings in France and Sweden.

A mistake in the last race in Canada saw him finish thirteenth, which knocked his ranking for the series down to fourth but, overall, he is happy. "I couldn't have asked for more in the first two races especially in Sweden where I won by a big margin," he said. Training full-time, thanks to grants from the Sports Aid Foundation and a sponsorship deal with Adidas, he fits in up to ten sessions a week on the water — "less in the winter when it is cold" — and works-out in the gym to build up strength and endurance. Getting on the water involves early starts before the recreational paddlers in their plastic canoes make serious training impossible.

Ratcliffe has gone for the poor man's option. On the day he went to the Adidas offices to sign his contract, David Beckham parked his BMW M3 in his specially-reserved space in the car park and strolled in looking every inch the multimillionaire footballer. It was a sobering moment. "Ah well," Ratcliffe said, sipping his frugal Coca-Cola. "Provided I can make a living I'm happy. And I do love to win."

EQUESTRIANISM

Fletcher takes jump-off to retain trophy

By JENNY MACARTHUR

TINA FLETCHER, riding Hazel Nilsson's McCoist, made an auspicious start to a buoyant opening day at the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley Arena yesterday, when she won the Saffron PPC National Grade C Championship for the second successive year.

Riding with the flair that gained her the Queen Elizabeth II Cup in 1992 and 1993, Fletcher, 32, produced a fast and faultless round in the four-horse jump-off to relegate Mark McCourt, on Exander, to second place by 1.22sec.

"I went as fast as I dared," Fletcher said. She started riding the seven-year-old gelding (by Secundus) in February and after several successes this summer, including the Grade C Championship at the Bath and West in June, has high hopes for him. They compete again in the Horse and Hound Foxhunter Championship today.

Fletcher married Graham Fletcher, the international showjumper, in April. She came to the forefront of the sport under her maiden name of Tina Cassan when she rode Fred Brown's Genesis to victory in the Queen Elizabeth II Cup in 1992.

The chestnut gelding was bought by an American after Brown's death in 1993 and, for the past four years, Fletcher has concentrated on bringing on young horses at Graham Fletcher's Oxfordshire yard — with notable success. Spartacus and Fujyama, the horses on which she finished first and third in the Grade C last year, have since shown consistent form on the national circuit.

While her husband campaigns the more experienced horses, Fletcher is content with her novices. She said yesterday she had no wish to return to the international circuit.

Christina Hall, from Aberdeen, gained a swift reward for her long journey south when she and Murphy's Girl won the opening Woodpecker Shavings Junior Newcomer Championship by 0.74sec. The 14.2 hands mare, at five years old the youngest in the class, was bought in Ireland by George Babes, a dealer friend of Hall's. "I thought, because she's so young, she might freeze when she saw the arena and all the lights, but she just went in and lapped it up," Hall, 15, a pupil at Strathaven Academy in Glasgow, said. "She had never competed before, but George rang us last November and said he knew it was the pony for me."

RESULTS

Saffron PPC National Grade C Championship: 1, McCoist (T Fletcher), 0 in 34.99sec; 2, Exander (M McCourt), 0 in 36.21; 3, Swift Cavalier (K Doyle), 4 in 33.21.

Woodpecker Shavings Junior Newcomers' Championship: 1, Murphy's Girl II (C Hall), 0 in 29.73; 2, Fagan Bay (J Wingrave), 0 in 30.47; 3, Snowmule (L Stephenson), 0 in 30.62.

Squibb & Davies Junior Foxhunter Championship: 1, Bobby Bracken (S Marshall), 0 in 32.38; 2, Canteeny (C Hodgetts), 0 in 33.6; 3, Starbound (S Smith), 0 in 34.80.

Hall was delighted with her win, even though the prize-money — £50 — barely paid for the petrol for her journey.

John Whitaker's son, Robert, 14, was one of four riders with clear rounds over the big, well-built course, and had the fastest round in the jump-off on Mister Boombatik, but paid the penalty with four faults at the penultimate fence.

He also was out of luck in the Junior Foxhunter Championship. Riding Shaboogie Rock, he was eliminated for missing a fence in the jump-off. The class was won, for the second successive year, by Sarah Marshall on Bobby Bracken. Cheryl Hodgetts, third last year, went one better on Canteeny and also received the prize for the highest-placed Pony Club member.

IN BRIEF

Home pair put paid to tradition

THE inaugural European team bowls championships got under way in Guernsey yesterday with a surprising 20-16 victory for a home pair, Gary Pitschou and Anne Simon, over Mary Price and John Bell, of England, after the Channel Islanders boldly departed from the traditional mixed pairs arrangement where the woman leads and the man skips (David Rhys Jones writes).

Pitschou and Simon went on to win their second match, against Pam Cole and Bill Toleman, of Spain, 21-16. Price and Bell were beaten 22-7 by mother-and-son partnership, Sarah and David Gourlay, of Scotland.

The other Scotland pair, Joyce Lindores and George Adrain, powered to a 35-6 win over Holland.

Cricket: Peter Moores, who captained Sussex through one of the most turbulent seasons in the club's 158-year history last season, will not be taking on the role next summer. Tony Pigott, the chief executive, yesterday confirmed that Sussex, who finished bottom of the county championship and Sunday League, will be appointing a new, as yet unnamed skipper.

Sailing: There was little change in the race order of the Whitbread Round the World Race fleet as the yachts continue southwards across the Bay of Biscay. Last night, the four leading boats, *EF Language, Merit Cup, Silk Cut* and *Innovation Kvaerner*, remained closely bunched.

Hockey: England's opponents in the Junior World Cup semi-finals at Milton Keynes on Friday will be Australia, who drew 1-1 with Spain yesterday. In the other semi-final, Germany will play India.

Squash: Chris Walker, the England No 1, went out of the Rush Creek US Open Championships in Minneapolis after being beaten 13-15, 15-11, 15-7, 12-15, 15-13 by Alex Gough, the Welsh No 1. Gough now faces Peter Nicol, of Scotland, in the second round. Nicol beat the British champion, Mark Cairns, 12-15, 15-7, 15-12, 16-17, 15-11.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Branson to take over London Broncos

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

RICHARD BRANSON, the founder of the Virgin business empire, is to take a controlling interest in the London Broncos. An announcement will be made next week that he is to extend his 15 per cent shareholding in the club, which he bought last February.

Branson will acquire his increased stake from Barry Maranta, the Broncos' present owner, who is expected to remain on the club's board to work alongside Branson in developing the club, which has enjoyed its most successful season with a second place finish in the Stones Super League and bigger crowds at The Stoop Memorial Ground.

The takeover, which is expected to lead to an eventual flotation of the club, is due to be announced at Virgin's offices in London next Tuesday, five days before the Broncos' home quarter-final against Cronulla in the world club championship.

Stan Martin, the Whitehaven coach, faces a charge of bringing the game into disrepute after he was sent from the dugout by Steve Presley, the referee, for remarks made during his side's Divisional Premiership semi-final defeat by Hull. He must now appear before the Rugby Football League board of directors.

Rob Roberts, the Keighley loose forward, has been ordered to appear before the disciplinary committee today for allegedly striking Nick Fozzard, the Huddersfield prop, during the other semi-final on Sunday. Roberts was not punished by Robert Connelly, the referee, but has been cited by the executive committee after they saw the incident on video.

The committee will also consider the dismissal of Graeme Hallas, the Hull winger, and David Fatialofa, of Whitehaven. Any suspension would rule Hallas out of the Divisional Premiership final at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Shane Flanagan, the Castleford Tigers assistant coach, is leaving the Super League club to return home to Australia for business reasons. He owns a plumbing business.

RUGBY UNION

Woodward promises rigorous regime

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORESPONDENT

CLIVE WOODWARD may have called an "elite" squad of 23 players to Bisham Abbey yesterday but England's new rugby coach will not hesitate to make changes before the November rush of four internationals — against New Zealand twice, Australia and South Africa. He will have the most comprehensive back-up that the Rugby Football Union (RFU) can offer.

John Elliott, the RFU development officer, will organise a panel of observers and video analysis for Woodward, who will also be able to call on specialist coaches; yesterday Jim Blair, the former New Zealand conditioning coach now working with Bath, joined Woodward, who hopes to be able to use his services regularly.

Phil Keith-Roach, once of Rosslyn Park but now with Wasps and recognised as one of the leading front-row technicians, will work on scrummaging. Negotiations are going ahead for a kicking coach.

"The idea is to get a lot of information coming through from as wide a base as possible," Woodward said. "You can't get enough information. If these players are not playing well enough, they will be removed immediately — it will be that tough. There could be changes within the next few weeks but for today I want 23 players in a room who know what we're about."

The former England centre stressed to his players the need for good communication on the field. He is aware that, unless his core group of players are on the same wavelength, whatever game plan he seeks could be abortive: during subsequent gatherings, throughout October, he will not move on until he is sure his players are as familiar with communication calls as a club side might be.

"All the great sides have several good leaders and I think we have that," Woodward said. "But we want to make sure that all three sides — the seniors, the A and the under-21 — are playing the same way, using the same calls, getting a standardised way of playing."

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Oakland 6 Texas 14; Milwaukee 7 Kansas City 4 (first game); Milwaukee 2 Kansas City 6 (second game); Cleveland 10 New York Yankees 9; Detroit 6 Boston 0; Toronto 2 Baltimore 3; Chicago White Sox 3 Minnesota 5; Seattle 4 Anaheim 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia 0 Atlanta 6; Montreal 3 Florida 8; New York Mets 4 Pittsburgh 5; Houston 5 Chicago Cubs 3; St Louis 6 Cincinnati 8; Colorado 7 San Francisco 6; Los Angeles 6 San Diego 2.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP: East Hampstead Park (Bracknell) 7 Calderdale (Halifax) 3.

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CUP: Group E: London Towers 65 Milan 58.

BOWLS

GUERNSEY: European Team championship: First round: Ireland (M Johnston and N Graham) bt Jersey (C Syvret and D Le Marquand) 19-10; Wales (J Wasson and W Thomas) bt Holland (J Aartsen and W Smith) 36-7; Scotland (S and D Gourlay) bt Spain (P Cole and D Toleman) 20-15; Guernsey (G Pitschou and A Simon) bt England (M Price and J Bell) 20-16; Wales (A Damon and D Wilkins) bt Guernsey (B Hurford and B Simon) 26-8; Ireland (D Kane and G McCloy) bt Spain (C Toleman and T Pilling) 25-11; Scotland (J Lindores and G Adrain) bt Holland (J Tromp and W Van Ginkel) 35-6, England (J Baker and B Morley) bt Jersey (S Dingle and C Renouf) 22-15. Second round: Guernsey (A Simon and G Paschou) bt Spain (P Cole and B Toleman) 21-16, Scotland (S and D Gourlay) bt England (M Price and J Bell) 22-9; Ireland (M Johnston and N Graham) bt Wales (J Wasson and W Thomas) 23-13; Jersey (C Syvret and D Le Marquand) bt Holland (J Aartsen and W Smit) 33-7, Jersey (S Dingle and C Renouf) bt Holland (J Tromp and W Van Ginkel) 16-15, England (J Baker and B Morley) bt Spain (C Toleman and T Pilling) 18-12. Scotland (J Lindores and G Adrain) bt Guernsey (B Hurford and B Simon) 16-9. Ireland (D Kane and G McCloy) bt Wales (A Damon and D Wilkins) 19-12.

CYCLING

TOUR OF SPAIN: Eighteenth stage (Burgos to Valladolid, 183.7km): 1, L van Bon (Holl, Rabobank) 3hr 52min 30sec, 2, L Brochard (Fr, Lotus); 3, S Colage (It, Refin); 4, M Piccoli (It, Brescialat); 5, C Chiappucci (It, Asics); 6, J-V Garcia Acosta Banesto); 7, V Ekimov (Russ, US Postal), 8, Galdeano (Sp, Euskaltel) all same time; 9, S Oustamine (Russ, Refin) at 37sec; 10, D Pierl (It, Scngno) 4min 25sec; 11, A di Basco (It, Saeco); 12, Thibout (Fr, Colidis) all same time. Leading overall positions: 1, A Zülle (Switz, ONCE) 77hr 4min 58sec; 2, F Escartin (Sp, Kelme) at 2min 46sec; 3, L Dufaux (Switz, Lotus) 3:39; 4, E Zarra (It, Asics) 5:07; 5, R Heras (Sp, Kelme) 8:17; 6, M Serrano (Sp, Kelme) 7:10; 7, D Clavaro (Sp, Estepona) 7:29, 8, L Jalabert (Fr, ONCE) 9:51; 9, G Faresin (It, Mapei) 11:10, 10, Y Ledenios (Fr, GAN) Ledenios 11:22; 11, Chiepppucci 12:57 12, P Bordenave (Fr) Casino 13:10.

FOOTBALL

WORLD CUP: European qualifying group two: Moldova 0 Georgia 1 (in Chisinau).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	7	6	0	1	15	2	18
Italy	7	5	2	0	11	1	17
Poland	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
Georgia	7	2	1	4	4	9	7
Moldova	7	0	0	7	2	18	0

GOLF

WORLD RANKINGS (US unless stated): 1, G Norman (Aus) 11 51pts ave, 2, T Woods 11.48, 3, E Els (SA) 9.85, 4, N Price (Zim) 9.27, 5, C Montgomerie (GB) 8.52, 6, T Lehman 8.46; 7, P Mickelson 8.22; 8, M Ozaki (Japan) 8.09; 9, M O'Meara 7.90; 10, D Love 7.78; 11, J Leonard 6.98; 12, F Couples 6.95

PING LEADERBOARD WOMEN'S RANKINGS (US unless stated): 1, A Sorenstam (Swe) 479.75pts; 2, K Webb (Aus) 477.66, 3, L Davies (GB) 399.72; 4, K Robbins 388.17; 5, L Neumann (Swe) 229.12.

HOCKEY

MILTON KEYNES: Junior World Cup: Pool A: Spain 4 Belgium 2; Australia 4 Holland 0; Holland 8 Cuba 2; Australia 1 Spain 1; India 4 Belgium 2. Positions: 1, Australia 11pts, 2, India 10; 3, Spain 10; 4, Holland 7; 5, Belgium 4; 6, Cuba 0. Pool B: England 3 Pakistan 1, Japan 0 Argentina 1. Positions: 1, Germany 12; 2, England 9, 3, Pakistan 8, 4, Argentina 8; 5, Japan 3, 6, Egypt 2.

ICE HOCKEY

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Paisley Pirates 2 Ayr Scottish Eagles 11.

REAL TENNIS

FONTAINEBLEAU: French Open championship (GB unless stated): Men: Qualifying event: First round: B Ronaldson bt T Batton (Fr) 6-2, 6-4; M Seignour (Fr) bt M Roussilion (Fr) 6-3, 6-1; J Wilcox bt S Barker 6-2, 6-2; M Eadie bt A Domange (Fr) 6-0, 6-0. Second round: H Latham bt G Russit (Fr) 6-1, 1-6, 6-0; M Seignour bt B Ronaldson 5-6, 6-2, 6-5. Women: Semi-finals: S Haswell bt F Dauchez (Aus); P Lumley bt A Garside 6-1, 6-0. Final: Haswell bt Lumley 6-4, 6-4.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Newbridge 17 Cardiff 55

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Queens Park Rangers v Ipswich (at Harrow Borough FC, 7.0).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Aston Villa v Sheffield Wednesday (7.0); Blackburn v Stoke (7.0). First division: Notts County v Coventry (7.0). Second division: Burnley v Wrexham (7.15). Third division: Walsall v Scunthorpe (7.0).

FA YOUTH CUP: First round qualifying: Concorde v Hoddesdon.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Arnold v Huddersfield.

SCHOOLS MATCH: Boodle & Dunthorne Cup: Ardingly v Victoria Coll Jersey; Repton v Hampton, Westminster v Bradfield.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: London Leopards v Leicester Riders (7.0).

BOWLS: European team championship (Guernsey).

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Ipswich v Poole (7.30), Swindon v Peterborough (7.30). Premier League: Isle of Wight v Newcastle (7.15). Amateur League: Ipswich and King's Lynn v Mildenhall (9.0)

TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (in Sunderland).

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: First leg (Southampton to Cape Town): Leading positions (at 14 00GMT with distance to finish): 1, EF Language (Swe) 6,740miles; 2, Merit Cup (Monaco) 6,741.6; 3, Silk Cut (GB) 6,742.7; 4, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 6,742.9; 5, Chessie Racing (US) 6,767; 6, Toshiba (US) 6,785.2.

SNOOKER

HEREFORD: German Open: Third qualifying round: J McCulloch (Eng) bt N Foulds (Eng) 5-0; Q Hann (Aus) bt M King (Eng) 5-2, M Clark (Eng) bt P Lines (Eng) 5-3, D Harold (Eng) bt J Johnson (Eng) 5-2; P Wykoc (Eng) bt F Brian (Ire) 5-4; G Dott (Scot) bt M Price (Eng) 5-1; J White (Eng) bt E Henderson (Scot) 5-3; G Wilkinson (Eng) bt A Jonos (Eng) 5-2. Thailand Masters: Final qualifying round: J Ferguson (Eng) bt B Snaddon (Scot) 5-3; S Pettman (Eng) bt R Lawler (Eng) 5-1; A Hicks (Eng) bt J Prince (N Ire) 5-1; S James (Eng) bt S Mazrocis (Eng) 5-2; J Birch (Eng) bt T Murphy (N Ire) 5-4.

SPEEDWAY

ELITE LEAGUE: Bradford 58 Wolverhampton 32.

SQUASH

MINNEAPOLIS: US Open championship: First round: Men: S Parks (Eng) bt M Chaloner (Eng) 15-9, 14-15, 15-12, 15-4; A Hill (Aus) bt B Marsh (Aus) 15-9, 13-15, 15-11, 7-15, 15-8; A Gough (Wales) bt C Walker (Eng) 13-15, 15-11, 15-7, 12-15, 15-13; P Nicol (Scot) bt M Cairns (Eng) 12-15, 15-7, 15-12, 16-17, 15-11. Women: C Jackman (Eng) bt T Beresford (Ill) 9-2, 9-3, 9-1; F Geaves (Eng) bt M Zein (Egypt) 3-9, 9-3, 9-1, 9-7; S Horner (Eng) bt S Brind (Eng) 9-3, 9-0, 9-1; N Grainger (SA) bt D Hollaran (US) 9-5, 9-5, 10-8.

TENNIS

MUNICH: Compaq Grand Slam Cup: First round: P Rafter (Aus) bt T Muster (Austria) 6-2, 6-3; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt B Becker (Ger) 6-3, 6-2; P Ivanda (Cz) bt G Kuerten (Br) 6-3, 5-3 ret; P Sampras (US) bt F Mantilla (Sp) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

TOULOUSE: Men's tournament: First round: A Radulescu (Ger) bt N Escude (Fr) 6-4, 7-6; P Haarhuis (Holl) bt A Costa (Sp) 7-6, 6-2; T Nydahl (Swe) bt M Rosset (Switz) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; T Haas (Ger) bt O Ogorodov (Uzb) 6-4, 6-2; A Clement (Fr) bt D Prinosil (Ger) 6-4, 6-4; L Paus (Fr) bt S Schalken (Holl) 7-6, 6-4, F Santoro (Fr) bt R Lavergne (Fr) 3-6, 7-6, 6-1; G Raoux (Fr) bt O Delaitre (Fr) 6-3, 6-2.

BUCHAREST: Men's tournament: First round: First round: C Moyà (Sp) bt H Dreekmann (Ger) 6-1, 4-6, 6-3; C Costa (Sp) bt I Moldovan (Rom) 7-6, 6-3; T Behrend (Ger) bt A Pawel (Rom) 6-2, 6-2; A Corretja (Sp) bt J Tarango (US) 6-4, 6-1; A Gaudenzi (It) bt J Alonso (Sp) 6-1, 6-4, R Fromberg (Aus) bt H Arazi (Morocco) 6-4, 6-0; M Güttner (Ger) bt J Viloca (Sp) 6-3, 6-3; J Sánchez (Sp) bt G Blanco (Sp) 6-4, 6-1; D Sanguinetti (It) bt O Stanoyichev (Bul) 6-4, 7-6, N Lapentti (Ecu) bt E Alvarez (Sp) 6-4, 6-3; C Ruud (Nor) bt F Vicenta (Sp) 7-6, 7-5; A Voinea (Rom) bt T Carbonel (Sp) 7-6, 6-1, I A Marin (Sp) bt M Filippini (Uru) 6-2, 6-3. Second round: Güttner bt Ruud 6-2, 5-7, 6-2; F Clavet (Sp) bt Behrend 7-6, 6-4; Sánchez bt Corretja 6-3, 4-6, 7-6, Costa bt Moyà 6-0, 4-6, 6-4.

SUNDERLAND: Satellite tournament (GB unless stated): Men: First round: A Parmar bt R Hanger 6-1, 6-2; N Gould bt A Popp Naumann (Aus) 6-1, 6-2; T Spinks bt P Maggs 6-2, 6-2; D Sapsford bt A Foster 6-1, 6-0; C Wall bt N Greenhouse 3-6, 6-3, 6-0; M Gregorc (Slovenia) bt M Hilton 6-4, 6-2; G Elsenaer (Bel) bt A Gonzalez (Sp) 6-3, 6-3; L Milligan bt J Fox 6-1, 6-2; R Matheson bt C Bennett 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; W Herbert bt J Layne 7-5, 7-6, N Watts bt M Lee 6-4, 6-4; D Lobb bt D Belcher 6-3, 3-6, 7-6; R Barbier (Fr) bt B Cowan 6-7, 7-6, 7-6; N Weal bt M Trudgeon 6-4, 3-6, 7-5. Women: First rounds: S Lydon bt V Davies 7-5, 7-5; M Joubert (SA) bt L Parkins 6-3, 6-3; M Persson (Swe) bt M Losey (Switz) 6-0, 6-1; A Buergis (Switz) bt H Crook 6-4, 3-6, 6-1; L Ogan bt C Smith 6-4, 6-3. Second round: L Lasmer bt J Dawson 6-3 3-6 6-2, N Payne bt L Gabas (ten) 6-3, 6-2; N Egorova (Russ) bt K Elliott 6-3, 6-0; L Cartwright bt M Wolfbrandt (Swe) 0-6, 6-2, 6-3, Joubert bt Lydon 7-6, 7-5; M Persson (Swe) bt L McDonald 6-1 6-2; A Wanwright bt A Buergis (Switz) 6-1, 6-0.

LEIPZIG: Women's tournament: First round: S Kleinova (Cz) bt J Kandarr (Ger) 6-4, 6-0; M Grzybowska (Pol) bt A-G Sidot (Fr) 7-5, 6-0, M Serra (Sp) bt L Courtois (Bel) 6-3, 6-4; S Appelmans (Bel) bt R Simpson (Can) 6-3, 6-3; J Kruger (SA) bt E Callens (Bel) 7-6, 6-3. Second round: I Majoli (Cro) bt B Schett (Austria) 6-4, 6-2; A Huber (Ger) bt S Farina (It) 6-4, 6-2; Y Basuki (Indo) bt A Cocheteux (Fr) 7-6, 6-3; M Hingis (Swe) bt M Maruska (Austria) 6-3, 7-5; Appelmans bt M Oremans (Holl) 2-6, 6-3, 7-5.

SURABAYA, Indonesia: Women's tournament: First round: First round: N Miyagi (Japan) bt J Watanabe (US) 6-4, 6-3. Second round: S Pitkowski (Fr) bt K-A Guse (Aus) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; L Nemeckova (Cz) bt E de Lone (US) 6-1, 3-0 ret; D van Roost (Bel) bt M Sekiki (Japan) 7-6, 6-3, H Inoue (Japan) bt H Nagyova (Slovakia) 6-3, 5-7, 7-5; N Pratt (Aus) bt T Tanasogarn (Thai) 7-5, 6-2.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

ZETTERS: Treble Chance: No 24pts winners, 23pts £275.90, 22 £2.10, 21 £0.30. Four draws £4.10. Eight homes £5.00. Four aways £22.60. Three draws (from all 16 draws) £5.80. Fer five £75.10. Lucky Numbers 22-3-13-31-36-34.

RACING: TIGHTER CONTROLS FOR BOOKMAKING INDUSTRY PLANNED TO PROTECT PUNTERS

Levy Board seeks ring of confidence

By Chris McGrath

THE whole of racing's complex funding system, which is constructed around a levy on betting turnover, rests upon one rather fragile premise — that punters enjoy confidence in the bookmaking industry. Yesterday the Horserace Betting Levy Board effectively conceded that punters will, too often, sooner associate the word 'confidence' in this context with the word 'tricks'.

The Board, which gathers and distributes the levy, is seeking tighter protection for punters from the sort of gamble they do not wish to take — with the integrity, or solvency, of their bookmakers. The Home Office is to be consulted about more rigorous criteria for the issue and renewal of bookmakers' permits by magistrates, while Customs and Excise is to be urged to monitor betting duty payments more closely, seeking early indications of a business in difficulty.

Yesterday's intervention was prompted by the collapse of three minor bookmaking firms over recent months. While Rodney Brack, the Board's chief executive, was anxious to point out that the bulk of the industry is beyond reproach, it has clearly been recognised that such episodes soon prise the wheels off the levy production line.

"The impact can be significant when things go wrong," he said. "But I must emphasise the problem only relates to a very tiny proportion of businesses. The betting industry, like any other, will inevitably include companies that fail for one reason or another. When they do, the customers are likely to suffer.

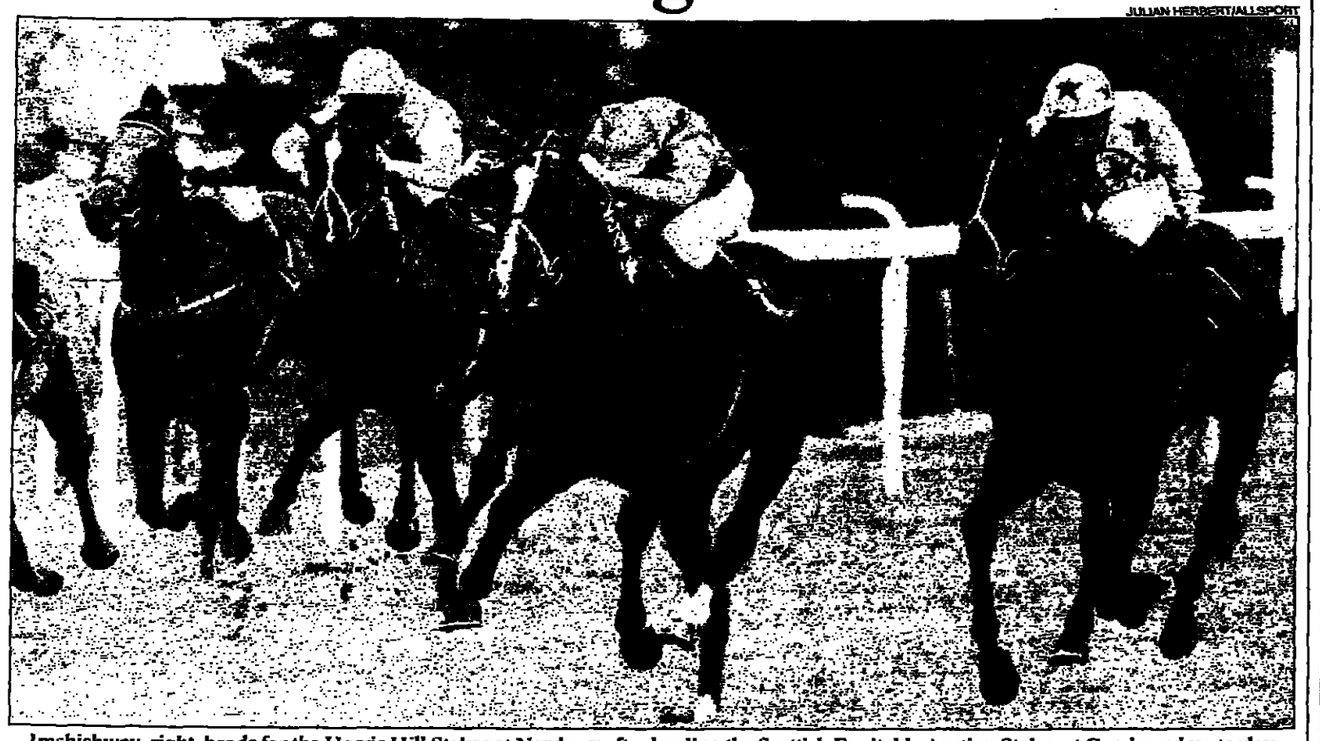
"The Board — particularly its independent members, who are appointed to take account of punters' interests — is acutely conscious of the need to protect the integrity of the betting industry."

He also acknowledged a further concern that punters' perception of the on-course betting market, the source of starting prices, is increasingly cynical. Critics argue that the ring is too primitive (and too easily manipulated) to cope with its vital role in the turnover of millions of pounds off-course.

Racecourses, keen to introduce change, have been bogged down for several years in turgid negotiation with the on-course bookmakers. Yesterday the Levy Board, again citing the effect on turnover of suspicions about integrity, impatiently threatened to arbitrate. After consulting its lawyers, it has discovered that bookmakers do not have an unconditional right to enter a betting ring. If agreement is not reached in two weeks, conditions will be imposed from above.

The punter's lot is, of course, sufficiently vexed at the best of times. There are adequate imponderables in every horse — such as why Oh Nellie, second in the 1,000 Guineas in the spring, has still to win a race this season. Nor will she today, in the Charlton Hunt Supreme Stakes, if Red Camellia is in the same heart as when she last ran at Goodwood. That was last summer, when she ran away with the Prestige Stakes, but she has since been repeatedly thwarted by training setbacks. Today sees her first outing since a noble failure in the French 1,000 Guineas.

There is life enough left in the Flat season, then — and John Reid was yesterday pencilled in to ride Predappio in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe on Sunday week — but many hearts will be stirred by Dorans Pride's successful return to steeplechasing at the Listowel Festival in Ireland yesterday. Third as a novice in last season's Cheltenham Gold Cup, Dorans Pride shrugged off top weight to win the Guinness Kerry National under Richard Dunwoody.



JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

Imshishway, right, heads for the Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury after landing the Scottish Equitable Auction Stakes at Goodwood yesterday

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: CLOSE UP (4.10 Pontefract)

Next best: Georgia Venture (3.00 Goodwood)

GOODWOOD

THUNDERER

2.00 Durham
2.30 Sword Arm
3.00 Georgia Venture
3.30 Decorated Hero
4.00 Dick Turpin
4.35 Chief Whip
5.05 SHORT ROMANCE (nap)

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.00 GEORGIA VENTURE.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 REFUSE TO LOSE (nap). 3.30 Red Camellia. 4.35 Young Josh.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-8432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robertson) B Hall 9-10-0 . B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — stopped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. (Days since last outing. J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: GOOD — DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.00 UCELLO II & UBU III TROPHY HANDICAP

(National Hunt jockeys: £3,664: 2m) (15 runners)

101	(10)	0030	AJCOMBE 15 (C Hardy) Lady Herries 4-11-10	C Llewellyn	68
102	(9)	6422152	DURHAM 15 (B,F,6) (Secret Partnership) G L Moore 6-11-10	D Gallagher	75
103	(15)	00-1530	CLASSY CHIEF 158 (Custom Racing) J Long 4-11-10	Leesa Long	69
104	(2)	0409820	SANDY FLOSS 17 (Mrs S Livesey) J King 4-11-8	B Powell	67
105	(5)	01141V	FATHER SKY 196J (B,G,S) (K Kornfeld) D Sherwood 6-11-8	J A McCarthy	-
106	(6)	/060-02	RED RAJA 113 (JI AR) P Mitchell 4-11-3	Mr Richards	78
107	(13)	4-20040	NORDANSK 36 (F) (T Smith) M Madgwick 8-10-13	M A Fitzgerald	55
108	(4)	000/	VIA DEL QUATRO 215J (I McGrady) J Mullins 5-10-9	V Slattery	-
109	(14)	5012240	ZAMALEK 9 (BF,F) (Miss V Markowski) R Flower 5-10-9	C Maude	65
110	(11)	4305/0/	WILKINS 40J (G,S) (R O'Sullivan) R O'Sullivan 6-10-7	A McCabe	-
111	(8)	6-05823	PALAEMON 26 (Miss B Swire) G Balding 3-10-4	B Fenton	76
112	(3)	040/00-	CHIEF'S SONG 201J (Mrs A Devine) S Dow 7-10-1	J R Kavanagh	-
113	(7)	-224165	HILLSWICK 10 (G) (M Court) J King 6-10-0	T J Murphy	71
114	(12)	-3004U4	GINKA 21 (Mrs M Bruce) J Mullins 6-10-0	S Curran	58
115	(1)	0000600	CHALLENGER II (Mrs E Sinclair) L Wells 4-10-0	L Harvey	-

Long handicap: Hillswick 9-13, Ginka 9-1, Challenger 8-12.

BETTING: 3-1 Red Raja, 9-2 Durham, 11-2 Chief's Song, 8-1 Ajcombe, Palaemon, Hillswick, 10-1 others.

1996: FRENCH IVY 9-11-4 P Carberry (7-2 fav) F Murphy 14 ran

FORM FOCUS Durham 1¼l 2nd to Lookout in 1¾m Kempton handicap (good) with Ajcombe (2lb better off) 7¾l 8th Father Sky 6¼l 4th to Bold Gait in 2m Newbury handicap (good to firm). Red Raja 2l 3rd to Duncombe Hall in 2m Folkestone handicap (good). Zamalek 13l 10th to Rock The Barney in 1¼m Sandown apprentice handicap (good). Palaemon 2¾l 3rd to Bold Buster in 1m 3l Lingfield handicap (good to soft). Hillswick 5½l 5th to Stoned Imaculate in 2m Nottingham handicap (good to firm).

PALAEMON looks on a favourable mark. Durham best of the remainder

2.30 SCATS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,980: 7f) (11 runners)

201	(9)	-650526	TELEMANIA 27 (F) (J Ashenheim) W Haggas 9-7	K Fallon	95
202	(1)	033133-	SALTY JACK 370 (F) (Salts Of The Earth) V Soane 9-6	C Rutter	91
203	(11)	5322136	KHAFAAQ 14 (B,D,6) (H al-Maktoum) W Hern 9-6	R Hills	69
204	(5)	3311030	SWORD ARM 6 (V,F) (A Oppenheimer) R Charlton 9-5	T Sprake	97
205	(8)	51-4202	REFUSE TO LOSE 9 (G) (J Smith) J Eustace 9-1	R Cochrane	100
206	(7)	-124500	GEE BEE DREAM 8 (D,F) (Grant & Bowman Ltd) A Jarvis 9-1	S Drowne	94
207	(10)	35-0000	BRAVEHEART 26 (G) (W Ponsonby) M Channon 8-8	S Sanders	70
208	(6)	50-4403	IRTIFA 8 (V,F) (H al-Maktoum) P Walwyn 8-6	W Ryan	82
209	(3)	-320650	UTIVAB 16 (Y Y Partnership) R Akehurst 8-3	M Roberts	95
210	(4)	0-0054	DANDY REGENT 131 (R Parsons) C Cyzer 8-3	R Pinnock (3)	79
211	(2)	3410020	MIDNIGHT SHIFT 16 (G) (C Mills) R Guest 8-1	Martin Dwyer	89

BETTING: 3-1 Khafaaq, 5-1 Refuse To Lose, Irtifa, 7-1 Telemania, Midnight Shift, 12-1 Sword Arm, Gee Bee Dream, Dandy Regent, 14-1 others.

1996: DON BOSIO 9-12 T Quinn (6-1) M Stoute 14 ran

FORM FOCUS Telemania 3½l 6th to Shawm in 1m Sandown handicap (good to soft) with Irtifa (2lb better off) 13l 10th Salty Jack 2¾l 3rd to Bali Paradise in 7f Newbury handicap (good to firm) Khafaaq 1¼l 6th to Safio in 7f Doncaster handicap (good to firm). Sword Arm 21l 9th to Jorrocks in 7f Newbury handicap (good) Refuse To Lose 1l 2nd to Mujova in 7f Sandown stakes (good). Irtifa 2l 3rd to Irish Light in 1m Sandown handicap (good to firm) with Gee Bee Dream (levels) 15l last. Dandy Regent 4¾l 4th to Gee Bee Dream (7lb worse off) in 7f Lingfield handicap (good to firm). Midnight Shift 4¾l 7th to Samara Song in 7f Leicester handicap (good to firm).

KHAFAAQ is preferred to Irtifa

3.00 NRU RATED HANDICAP (£7,871: 2m) (4 runners)

301	(3)	0611112	MEDIA STAR 36 (V,BF,C,D,F,G,S) (K Abdulla) J Gosden 4-9-8	G Peslier	100
302	(4)	0-30055	MALE-ANA-MOU 12 (C,F) (Oh So Bright Syad) D Elsworth 4-8-11	D Harrison (3)	103
303	(2)	2051112	LADY OF THE LAKE 12 (D,F,S) (J Macdonald-Buchanan) J Dunlop 3-8-8	G Carter	96
304	(1)	2431352	GEORGIA VENTURE 15 (G) (Dr F Chao) S Woods 3-8-3	R Pinnock (3)	110

BETTING: 5-4 Media Star, 9-4 Lady Of The Lake, 4-1 Male-Ana-Mou, 6-1 Georgia Venture.

1996: CANDLE SMILE 4-8-13 J Reid (7-4 fav) M Stoute 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Media Star neck 2nd to Far Ahead in 1m 5½l York handicap (good) Lady Of The Lake neck 2nd to High Intrigue in 2m handicap here (good) with Male-Ana-Mou (7lb better off) 4¼l 5th. Georgia Venture neck 2nd to Sausalito Bay in 1¾m Doncaster handicap (good to firm).

MEDIA STAR should be able to gain compensation for narrow York defeat

3.30 CHARLTON HUNT SUPREME STAKES

(Group III: £22,638: 7f) (6 runners)

401	(6)	-611612	DECORATED HERO 14 (BF,D,F,S) (Exors late H Allen) J Gosden 5-9-2	O Peslier	121
402	(4)	0003240	RESTRUCTURE 12 (BF,F) (M Myers) Mrs J Cecil 5-9-2	M Roberts	114
403	(5)	46-1145	NWAAMES 14 (F,S) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 5-8-12	R Hills	106
404	(3)	00-2210	BLUEYGREEN 56 (D,G) (Bloomsbury Stud) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-6	Dane O'Neill	92
405	(2)	4-22256	OH NELLIE 56 (BF,D,F) (M Tabor) R Callaghan 3-8-6	W Ryan	109
406	(1)	1114-3	RED CAMELLIA 137 (CD,F,S) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Prescott 3-8-6	S Sanders	124

BETTING: 9-4 Decorated Hero, 11-4 Red Camellia, 7-2 Oh Nellie, 9-2 Nwaames, 8-1 others.

1996: TAGULA 3-8-9 K Darley (4-1) I Balding 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Decorated Hero neck 2nd to Almushtarak in 1m Doncaster group III stakes (good to firm) with Nwaamis (levels) 3½l 5th Restructure 4¼l 7th to Russian Music in 1m Doncaster handicap (good to firm). Oh Nellie 5¼l 6th to Dazzle in 7f Goodwood listed fillies stakes (good to firm) with Blueygreen (levels) 7¼l last. Red Camellia 3¼l 3rd to Always Loyal in 1m Longchamp group I stakes (good to soft)

RED CAMELLIA can get the better of Decorated Hero

4.00 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS MAIDEN STAKES

(3-Y-O: £3,785: 1m 2f) (10 runners)

501	(1)	30	BEL CANTO 9 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0	O Peslier	45
502	(4)	6-03	DICK TURPIN 12 (BF) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 9-0	W Ryan	70
503	(7)	530-30	MUTABARI 152 (H Al-Maktoum) K Mahdi 9-0	R Cochrane	82
504	(10)	04	QUIET VENTURE 16 (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-0	K Fallon	75
505	(3)	5305-2	TOUGH ACT 12 (Mrs R Deal) Mrs A Perrett 9-0	A Clark	86
506	(8)	60500	BALFOUR LADY 31 (Buckingham Partnership) J Toller 8-9	M Roberts	16
507	(6)	0200422	CURZON STREET 22 (BF) (D McGarry) D Elsworth 8-9	J Reid	82
508	(5)	040030	LIMELIGHT 17 (B) (A Gibson) J Toller 8-9	S Sanders	60
509	(9)	05	PANORAMA 35 (Lord Halifax) L Cumani 8-9	R Pinnock (3)	41
510	(2)	00	PRADESH 9 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-9	A Garth	67

BETTING: 3-1 Tough Act, 4-1 Curzon Street, 5-1 Panorama, 6-1 Dick Turpin, 7-1 Bel Canto, Quiet Venture, 8-1 Pradesh, 25-1 others

1996: FILMORE WEST 9-0 T Quinn (5-4 fav) P Cole 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Bel Canto 1¼l 7th to Flagship in 1¼m Sandown maiden (good) with Pradesh (levels) 13l 8th. Mutabari 37l 6th to Venetian Scene in 1½m Leicester handicap (good to soft). Quiet Venture 5¾l 4th to Sacho in 1¼m Leicester maiden (good to firm). Tough Act neck 2nd to Silvery in 1¼m Goodwood maiden (good) with Dick Turpin (levels) 3¼l 3rd. Balfour Lady 20l last of 8 to Polish Romance in 7f Epsom maiden (good to soft). Curzon Street 6¼l 3rd to Mono Lady in 1½m Brighton fillies handicap (good to firm) Limelight 33l 7th to Maryavy in 1m3f Southwell maiden handicap (AW) Panorama 14l 5th to Grand Splendour in 1¼m Yarmouth maiden (good to firm)

TOUGH ACT can confirm running here with Dick Turpin

4.35 EBF MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,199: 6f) (10 runners)

601	(7)	00	ARCTIC STAR 7 (Kingsdown Racing) M Channon 9-0	S Sanders	56
602	(3)	044	CHIEF WHIP 13 (M Ken-Dineen) L Cumani 9-0	R Pinnock (3)	77
603	(5)	00	MAIL SHOT 16 (MacDonald Mailing) S Dow 9-0	P Doe (7)	42
604	(8)		MY TYSON (H Al-Maktoum) K Mahdi 9-0	Martin Dwyer	-
605	(9)	55	ORSINO 13 (Mrs J Gittins) S Dow 9-0	W Ryan	70
606	(6)	00	THOMAS O'MALLEY 13 (C Washbourn) R O'Sullivan 9-0	A Proctor	39
607	(11)	63	TORRENT 21 (BF) (Highclere Thoroughbred Racing Ltd) P Cole 9-0	C Rutter	67
608	(2)	6	TWOFORTEN 39 (T Burrage) M Madgwick 9-0	N Varley	44
609	(10)	6	YOUNG JOSH 10 (D Armitage) J Gosden 9-0	G Peslier	50
610	(4)	0	UPLIFTING 58 (G Albertini) L Cumani 8-9	M Roberts	45

BETTING: 5-2 Young Josh, 3-1 Chief Whip, 7-2 Orsino, Torrent, 16-1 My Tyson, 20-1 Twoforten, 25-1 others

1996: BACHELORS PAD 9-0 Pat Eddery (5-6 fav) W Jarvis 17 ran

FORM FOCUS Arctic Star 17l 8th to Arctic Air in 7f Ayr maiden (good to soft) Chief Whip 6l 4th to Iceband in 6f Goodwood maiden (good) with Orsino (levels) 6½l 5th and Thomas O'Malley (levels) 16l 11th. Mail Shot 18l 14th to Sensory in 7f Leicester maiden (good to firm) Twoforten 15l 6th to Surveyor in 6f Lingfield maiden (good to firm). Young Josh 6½l 6th to Deterrent in 6f Nottingham maiden (good to firm)

CHIEF WHIP gets vote on promising run here last time out

5.05 ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE NURSERY HANDICAP

(2-Y-O: £3,200: 1m) (11 runners)

1	(6)	4210	RICO SUAVE 17 (F) (H Kelly) M Prescott 9-7	S Sanders	88
2	(1)	3310	ELAKIR 17 (B,BF,F) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-5	R Hills	80
3	(9)	0014364	KING DARIUS 17 (G) (E Perry) R Hannon 8-13	Dane O'Neill	91
4	(8)	1640000	BALLET RAMBERT 6 (F) (Mrs J Wang) M Heaton-Ellis 8-10	K Fallon	84
5	(2)	060	BRONZINO 15 (Miss B Swire) G Balding 8-8	S Drowne	81
6	(5)	4500300	RINGLEADER 33 (B) (Axom) P Cole 8-8	C Rutter	98
7	(3)	053	POLO VENTURE 17 (D, F Case) S Woods 8-6	J Reid	83
8	(10)	4303	SHORT ROMANCE 16 (Abbott Racing Partners) J Hills 7-12	M Henry (3)	95
9	(11)	006	DAWN TREADER 17 (Mrs L Regis) R Hannon 7-11	R Pinnock (3)	79
10	(4)	2245	LITTLE TUMBLER 13 (Mrs W Edgar) S Woodman 7-10	A Polli (5)	88
11	(7)	060	THE THRUSTER 28 (B) (Mrs W Hern) W Hern 7-10	Martin Dwyer	80

Long handicap: The Thruster 7-5

BETTING: 9-2 Elakir, 5-1 Rico Suave, 6-1 Short Romance, 7-1 King Darius, 8-1 Ringleader, Little Tumbler, 10-1 Polo Venture, The Thruster, 12-1 others

1996: BOLD ORIENTAL 8-8 Pat Eddery (5-1) N Callaghan 10 ran

FORM FOCUS King Darius 4l 4th to Kim's Brave in 1m Bath handicap (good) with Rico Suave (1lb worse off) 8l 10th and Elakir (1lb worse off) 8¼l 12th. Ballet Rambert 16l 8th to Sunley Seeker in 7f Newbury handicap (good). Polo Venture 11l 3rd to Confirmation in 7f Southwell maiden (AW) with Dawn Treader (9lb better off) 17l 6th. Short Romance 4l 3rd to Holy Wins in 7½f Lingfield handicap (good) Little Tumbler 3l 5th to Titan in 7f Goodwood handicap (7f, good)

SHORT ROMANCE looks on a lenient mark judged on creditable Lingfield effort

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rns	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
E Dunlop	8	31	25.8	R Pinnock	4	22	18.2
P Cole	29	139	20.9	J Reid	39	270	14.4
J Gosden	26	140	18.6	M Roberts	20	145	13.8
R Charlton	12	72	16.7	R Cochrane	21	154	13.6
W Haggas	3	18	16.7	K Fallon	7	55	12.7
Mrs J Cecil	4	26	15.4	Dane O'Neill	14	113	12.4

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Goodwood

Going: good

2.00 (1m 1f) 1. SIENA (Candy Morris, 33-1), 2. Constant Attention (T Quinn, 100-30); 3. Royal Ground (G Hind, 5-2 fav). ALSO RAN: 7 Five Fairies, Francesca's Folly (8th), 8 Arm And A Leg (4th), 12 Opportunity (5th), Shalabella, 16 Mujie's Magic, 33 Erika's Young Man, 50 Far-So-La, Pride Of Fashion 12 ran. NR: Persian Venture. ¾l, sh hd, 1¼l, sh hd, ½l, M Channon at Upper Lambourn. Tote £65.50: £10.90, £1.30, £1.50. DF: £131.50. Tncst: £152.40. CSF: £126.69.

2.30 (1m) 1. MUTAWWAJ (J Reid, 10-11 fav; Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap), 2. Achilles (J Weaver, 10-1); 3. Laer Spear (S Drowne, 10-1) ALSO RAN: 9-4 High Tension (4th), 14 Alight (5th), 20 St Enodoc (6th), 33 Flight Cross Jonny, 66 Santarene. 8 ran. ¾l, 3½l, 4l, hd, 5l. S Ian Sursor at Newmarket. Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £2.20, £2.20. DF: £5.00. CSF: £10.63.

3.00 (7f) 1. IMSHISHWAY (K Darley, 14-1), 2. Titan (T Quinn, 9-1), 3. Madame Jones (J Quinn, 16-1) ALSO RAN: 11-8 fav Central Committee (4th), 9-2 Bertron, 5 Priceless (6th) 10 Czar Wars, 50 Lauren's Lad (5th) 8 ran. ½l, 1¼l, sh hd, 1¾l, sh hd. B Meehan at Lambourn. Tote: £26.50; £4.40, £1.80, £2.50. DF: £60.10. CSF: £111.58.

3.30 (1m 2f) 1, DANISH RHAPSODY (Paul Eddery, 3-1), 2, Proper Blue (T Quinn, 4-1), 3, Sandstorm (T Sprake, 11-8 fav). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Running Stag (4th), 20 Lonely Heart (5th) 5 ran. ½l, sh hd, 4l, 2½l. Lady Herries at Littlehampton. Tote: £2.70, £1.80, £1.90. DF: £6.50. CSF: £13.53.

4.00 (5f) 1, BEAU VENTURE (T Sprake, 9-1), 2, Flying Harold (J Carroll, 20-1), 3, Lucy In The Sky (C Rutter, 50-1); 4, Songsheet (P P Murphy, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 7-1 fav Friendly Brave, 8 Scissor Ridge, Sweet Magic (6th), 11 Tess White, 12 Half Tone (5th), Pride Of Hayling (l), 14 Bright Paragon, The Fugative, 16 Tarl And A Half, 20 Ashkernazy, Kabcast, 25 Churchill's Shadow, Dancing Mystery, Kater, Windrush Boy, 33 Anokato, 50 Il Dona, Smiling Bess, Wychwood Sandy. 23 ran. ¾l, nk, ¼l, sh hd, sh hd. B Pelling at Cowbridge. Tote: £10.50, £2.60, £4.20, £10.50, £3.60. DF: £106.50. CSF: £173.90. Tricast: £7,711.50.

4.35 (1m) 1, HARLEQUIN WALK (J Quinn, 8-1), 2, Dancing Lawyer (Dane O'Neill, 10-1); 3, Catscharge Blue (T Sprake, 33-1). 4, Lord Oberon (G Carter, 7-1) ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav Mbulwa (5th), 10 Oxbane, 11 Country Thatch, 12 Soaking, 14 Norman Conquest, 16 Mr Rough, Multi Franchise, South China Sea, Without Friends, (6th), 20 Forget To Remember, Invocation, Little Pilgrim, 25 Nattie, 33 Great Bear, Memory's Music, Three Weeks. 20 ran. NR: Bapsford, Onaknight, With You. 1¼l, ¾l, 2l, nk, hd. R O'Sullivan at Whitcombe. Tote: £7.80, £1.70, £2.10, £9.80, £2.50. DF: £45.10. Tno: £1,048.00. CSF: £81.88. Tricast: £2,399.04.

5.05 (1m 4f) 1, ZIBETH (P Doe, 25-1), 2, Seattle Swing (J Reid, 10-1), 3, Prince Alex (S Whitworth, 4-1) ALSO RAN: 3-1 fav Pennys From Heaven (6th), 3-1 fav Royal Castle (4th), 11 Snow Partridge, 12 Herbishan Dancer (5th), 14 Olivo, 25 Action Stations. 9 ran. ¾l, nk, sh hd, 7l, 5l. S Dow at Epsom. Tote: £21.40; £3.20, £2.90, £1.80. DF: £58.10. CSF: £211.80. Tricast: £1,029.43.

5.35 (1m) 1, MAC OATES (A Daly, 16-1), 2, Rawi (J Carroll, 14-1), 3, Mimosa (T Quinn, 10-1); 4, Ring The Chief (G Hannon, 4-1 jt-fav) ALSO RAN 4-1 jt-fav Step On Degas, 10 King Parrot, Southbourg, 14 La Chaleasse, Prime Partner, 16 Greaate (5th), Jubilee Scholar, Racing Telegraph, 20 Deevee, Fancy Design (6th), Karachi, Southern Memories, Velvet Jones, 33 Belzao, Geordie Lad. Medfale, Prince Zizm, 50 Trevor Mitchell. 22 ran. 1¼l, nk, ½l, sh hd. P Hodger at Chichester. Tote: £31.60; £4.80, £3.60, £4.40. £1.50. DF: £171.30. CSF: £212.67. Tricast: £2,237.54.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £20,253.23 carried forward to Goodwood today).

Placepot: £617.80. Quadpot: £487.30.

Chester

Going: good

2.20 (1m 5f 89yd) 7. SPY KNOLL (D Holland, 3-1), 2, Spartan Heartbeat (W O'Connor, 5-1), 3, Aboo Hom (M Roberts, 4-1) ALSO RAN: 13-8 fav Midnight Watch (6th), 25 Aeolina (4th), 50 Tanayer (5th), 66 Sostenuto, 100 Single Man. 8 ran. 1¼l, 8l, 12l, 14l, 2½l. M Stoute at Newmarket. Tote: £4.70, £1.10, £1.60, £1.50. DF: £8.80. CSF: £14.42.

2.50 (7f 2yd) 1, PURE NOBILITY (D Holland, 14-1), 2, Freedom Quest (S Sanders, 7-4 fav); 3, Rewards (J Egan, 16-1) ALSO RAN: 4 Cherokee Band, 5 Da Boss, 10 Prince Ashleigh (4th), The Magistrate (5th), 12 Elba Magic (6th). Genius. 9 ran. 1¼l, ½l, nk, 1l, 4l. B Hills at Lambourn. Tote: £20.50; £5.10, £1.70, £2.30. DF: £34.70. Trio: £141.50. CSF: £36.58.

3.20 (7f 2yd) 1, BURNT YATES (S Sanders, 10-1); 2, Montano (J Fortune, 11-1); 3, Inchalong (N Day, 8-1) ALSO RAN: 4-1 fav Positive Air, 7 Demolition Jo (4th), 10 Balaclava (6th), Boulevard Rouge, Junior Muffin, Khattaff, 20 Aviva Lady, Robeena, Sing For Me (5th), Thanks Keith, 25 Shannon's Secret. 14 ran. 2¼l, 2, ¾l, 6l, 1¼l. M W Easterby at Sheriff Hutton. Tote: £12.80, £3.00, £3.50, £2.30. DF: £49.70. Tno: £148.30. CSF: £95.23. Tricast: £850.95.

3.50 (1m 7f 195yd) 1, FORGIE (N Day, 17-2), 2, Turnpole (A Culhane, 6-1), 3, Etterby Park (D Holland, 8-1) ALSO RAN: 9-2 jt-fav Alnasaam (4th), 9-2 jt-fav Campaspe, 7 Beaumont (5th), 10 Top, 11 Great Collision, 12 Rex Mundi, 33 New Inn (6th), 100 Drama King. 11 ran. 1¼l, nk, hd, 3½l, 12l, 2l. P Calver at Ripon. Tote: £11.30, £3.20, £2.10, £2.20. DF: £44.60. Tno: £61.50. CSF: £45.55. Tricast: £324.78.

4.20 (7f 122yd) 1, MUTAMAM (R Hills, 2-1); 2, Golden Dice (K Fallon, 5-4 fav), 3 Confirmation (S Sanders, 4-1) ALSO RAN 5 Kawafil (4th) 4 ran. 1-¼l, 3l, nk. A Stewart at Newmarket. Tote: £3.20. DF: £2.50. CSF: £5.00.

4.55 (5f 16yd) 1 SWAN AT WHALLEY (R Cochrane, 13-2); 2, Caution (K Fallon, 8-11), 3 Lady Sheriff (S Sanders, 8-1) ALSO RAN: 4-1 fav That Man Again, 8 Gi La High, Palacegate Jack, 9 Sharp Pearl (4th), 12 Square Come, Top Of The Form, 16 Princely Sound, 16 U-No-Harry, 20 Polly Golightly (5th), Swyno (6th) 13 ran. Hd, 1l, nk, nk, nk. R Fahey at Malton. Tote: £7.30; £2.30, £2.20, £3.70. DF: £19.00. Tno: £90.20. CSF: £54.95. Tricast: £400.97.

Placepot: £528.00. Quadpot: £149.70.

Perth

Going: good to firm, good in places

2.10 (3m 110yd hdle) 1. Trilby (A Dobbin, 4-7 fav); 2, Four From Home (6-1), 3, Woodhouse Lane (33-1) 5 ran. 2¾l, 14l. G Richards. Tote: £1.40, £1.30, £2.10. DF: £2.50. CSF: £3.90.

2.40 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Pentlands Flyer (A Maguire, 7-2); 2 Music Biz (16-1), 3, Monkey Wench (11-1) Unlisthen 8-13 fav 10 ran. 14l, 4l. J Howard Johnson. Tote: £3.90; £1.40, £2.50, £2.00. DF: £97.50. Tno: £45.30. CSF: £47.18.

3.10 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Eden Dancer (P Niven, 2-5 fav), 2, Xapelo (13-2), 3, Eurotwist (5-1) 5 ran. 1½l, 16l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £1.30, £1.10. £1.80. DF: £2.90. CSF: £3.39.

3.40 (2m 4l 110yd hdle) 1, Cheatar (Mr C Bonner, 5-1); 2, Mithraic (7-2), 3, Vintage Tattinger (5-4 fav) 5 ran. 3l, 19l. J Howard Johnson. Tote: £4.90, £1.60, £1.70. DF: £7.20. CSF: £17.41.

4.10 (3m 2f) 1, Johns The Boy (R Guest, 9-4), 2, Wells Court (8-1), 3, Rusty Blade (2-1 fav) 5 ran. 2l, ½l. N Mason. Tote: £2.70, £1.80, £2.30. DF: £14.00. CSF: £15.45.

4.45 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Tardad (P Niven, 4-11 fav), 2, Sandabar (4-1); 3, Sounds Devious (40-1) 7 ran. 6l, 2½l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £1.30; £1.20, £1.90. DF: £2.10. CSF: £1.84.

Placepot: £46.40. Quadpot: £16.00.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

PONTEFRACT: Trainers: P Cole, 6 winners from 16 runners, 37.5%, J Dunlop, 14 from 51, 27.5%, B Hills, 7 from 29, 24.1%, M Stoute, 9 from 39, 23.1%, S Woods, 4 from 18, 22.2%, D Loder, 5 from 24, 20.8%. Jockeys: M Hills, 8 winners from 37 rides, 21.6%, T Quinn, 5 from 24, 20.8%, N Day, 3 from 16, 18.8%, K Darley, 26 from 220, 11.8%, J Fortune, 19 from 172, 11.0%; J Egan, 4 from 37, 10.8%

PERTH: Trainers: P Hobbs, 15 winners from 31 runners, 48.4%, Mrs M Reveley, 24 from 61, 39.3%, J Goldie, 15 from 54, 27.8%; M Hammond, 23 from 105, 21.9%, P Monteith, 18 from 87, 20.7%. Jockeys: G Tormey, 4 winners from 9 rides, 44.4%; P Niven 27 from 87, 31.0%, A McCoy, 9 from 32, 28.1%, R Garritty, 12 from 56, 21.4%, G Lee, 3 from 14, 21.4%

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PONTEFRACT

THUNDERER

2.40 Total Tropix. 3.10 Naskhi. 3.40 Infatuation. 4.10 Close Up. 4.45 Rich Glow. 5.15 Bubble Wings.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS

DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.40 EBF POPPIN LANE MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O: £4,169: 6f) (16 runners)

1	(8)	00	ANTONIO JOLI 10 P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	-
2	(12)	00	ASPIRANT DANCER 18 M Bell 9-0	M Fenton	-
3	(5)		BRAVE MAPLE J Eustace 9-0	J Tate	-
4	(7)		CAPTAIN LOGAN D Loder 9-0	J Carroll	-
5	(4)	05	GOLDMASTER 8 W O'Gorman 9-0	Emma O'Gorman	-
6	(15)		HAPPY WANDERER P Haslam 9-0	J Fortune	-
7	(14)	0000	HEY UP MATE 40 J Berry 9-0	C Lowther (5)	-
8	(1)	0003	LEOFRIC 16 (V) M Polglase 9-0	J Weaver	78
9	(2)	6	MY LOST LOVE 106 M Johnston 9-0	D Holland	-
10	(16)	423	PROMPT DELIVERY 40 (BF) M Stoute 9-0	K Darley	100
11	(11)	0005	STRICTLY RHYTHM 5 Mrs S Bramall (ire) 9-0	G Parkin (3)	-
12	(9)	30	CANONIZE 35 (BF) J Hills 8-9	M Hills	65
13	(6)	50	ESSANDESS 20 J Eyre 8-9

GOLF: BALLESTEROS AND KITE ADOPT CONTRASTING APPROACHES ON EVE OF RYDER CUP OPENING CEREMONY

Rivals hope practice will make perfect

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN VALDERRAMA

THE temperature dropped noticeably here yesterday. Clouds dotted the sky above the Costa del Sol, which according to signs all along the notorious Cadiz to Malaga road, is also named the Costa del Golf, and there was a distinct feeling that the time is drawing nigh for both the Europe and the United States teams in the Ryder Cup, which starts tomorrow.

"On the morning of the matches, I'll be pumped up," Tom Kite, the captain of the United States team, said. "I will be anxious to see how some of the pairings pan out, to see how good the guys are really playing. A lot of them look as if they are playing really well, but these are just practice rounds. We know that there is a big difference between the practice rounds and the actual competition."



The fiasco about Miguel Angel Martin somehow caught the tone of the last full day of practice before the opening ceremony today and emphasised that it was a more serious day than Tuesday had been. Then, in case anyone was in any doubt that Severiano Ballesteros intends to be a hands-on captain, he warned his team members that, if he saw them doing anything wrong, he would have no hesitation in telling them so. And not only in practice. Ballesteros said that he would do it during the match as well.

The mind boggled. Did Ballesteros mean to sound like a schoolmaster? What constitutes "something wrong?" Using a surlyn instead of a balata ball? Lifting an acorn from a bunker, which is against the rules in force in this competition? Taking the incorrect line from the tee at the 4th hole? Going for the green at the 17th from the wrong side of the fairway?

Ballesteros meant none of these solecisms. He demonstrated precisely what he had in mind when he came upon Darren Clarke as the Ulsterman was struggling to get his ball out of a downhill lie in a bunker on the 9th.

"He was playing with his swing too short," Ballesteros, one of the greatest bunker players in the history of the game, said. "And his club, instead of continuing with the slope, was coming up, and so he was topping the ball. He topped it twice, in fact. I told him to keep the club-face lower through the ball and straightaway he hit a perfect shot."

Giving a team member a masterclass in sand play was not what Kite did, though the 47-year-old was just as evident in support of his team as Ballesteros was of his. Kite stood on the 9th tee and watched as Tiger Woods drove first into the right rough, then played another ball and hit this one into the left rough. As Woods walked from the tee, Kite put his left arm around Woods's right shoulder and talked softly.

Kite has stressed two things to his men. "Enjoy yourselves," he has said repeatedly. "Tom has made this team come together," Davis Love III said. "We are as much a team as any team I have known. We are more relaxed. He has told us "to enjoy, work hard, have fun and do well." He has not been extra strict. He has stressed having fun."

Love and Fred Couples defeated Woods and Phil Mickelson 2 and 1, and the two older Americans, who are such good friends, will surely play together at some time in the first two days, though Couples will have to brush up on his short game. Kite believes putting will be the key to victory. "The best putters will play the most," Kite has said.

By common consent, the outstanding putters among the Americans are Jim Furyk, Woods, Scott Hoch and Brad Faxon, who played with Justin Leonard against Lee Janzen and Jeff Maggert. Furyk and Tom Lehman were partners again, just as they had been when Lehman pocketed $125 the previous day, and again Lehman and Furyk won, this time beating Mark O'Meara and Hoch by one hole.

"This could turn into a putting contest," Love said. "If the wind blows, it could be decided on the greens. Phil, Brad, we've got to have them out there. They're the guys with the good steady short games that are going to pay off around here."

Couples needs to practice his putting. On the 15th, that stirring par three played from a tee that offers a view of Gibraltar to the west and across to Africa, Couples tried five or six times to hole an eight-foot putt. Long after Love, Woods and Mickelson had climbed to the 16th tee, Couples was still hunched over his ball, before he eventually sank the putt.

On the 18th, Couples did not need to putt. To a huge cheer, Love chipped in from off the green. As soon as the ball disappeared, Butch Harmon, Woods's coach, pulled some money from his pocket and gave it to Love and Couples.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



The essential part that the practice ground can play in achieving success at Valderrama is instilled in Nick Faldo to the bottom of his boots

Periscope puts patient approach in perspective

LYNNE TRUSS



At Valderrama

Things are hotting up at Valderrama. Yesterday expensive sandwiches turned up in the catering outlets (tough luck for those of us who pawed pathetically at empty cold cabinets on Tuesday). Meanwhile, the marshals now give directions to the 5th tee without first looking blank and panicky; and if only a system of cable cars and helicopters was installed for the use of foot-weary hacks whose hair sticks flat to their heads when they are fagged with walking, the excitement would be almost unbearable.

The atmosphere is one of phoney war, I suppose. Every morning, you wake up with a jolt and think "It's started!" And then you think, "No, hang on", and sink back strangely upset. Personally, I realise I've been artificially enhancing the suspense of waiting for tomorrow by blanking out all references to the American players, thus preserving their exotic mystery. "Oh look, Americans." I can say tomorrow. "Well howdy doody, is Tiger here?" Accidentally spotting Scott Hoch on the driving range yesterday, I could only identify him by reading his name on his bag. Exactly as it should be, I thought, and instantly wiped out all memory of his face.

With the Europeans, on the other hand, one's attitude grows daily more unconditionally approving, as though they were pet lambs or something. Look, there's Monty and Woosie and, er, Langerie and Parnevikie! In the galleries, we chat in banal fashion — "those yellow shirts are nice, aren't they?" "Yes, but the green shirts yesterday were very nice, too." In the distance, on the practice ground, Woosie and Seve and the boys exchange banter and I laugh along, even though I can't hear what they're saying. Odd, when you think about it.

Yesterday was another practice day, identical to Tuesday, but the crowd was gearing up for the competition with more applause and bigger galleries, some of them gladly masticating a sandwich instead of fainting with hunger as before.

It was one such eager member of the public, carrying a home-made periscope (cardboard tube, sticky tape), who inspired me to visit the shop beside the 4th green and purchase for a mere 8,500 pesetas (or £35) an extendable periscope of my own. What larks, eh? It goes up, it goes down, but you can't do that funny thing of shutting your thumbs in the handles. An absolutely vital piece of equipment, however, with hours of entertainment built in.

I've always fancied a periscope for a golf tournament, in any case — I'm a Wise Virgin type by temperament, and have admired the people who use them in matches shown on the telly. So much more elegant than carrying a great big stepladder about; cheaper, too, than hiring a forklift truck. In the press-room, if spirits flag, I can now say "Hey! I've got an idea, let's play with my periscope!" followed by "Hey, where did everybody go?"

Out on the course, the Americans were doubtless pursuing golfing activity of some kind (I didn't look) but the Europeans were dabbling in foursomes, bless their hearts. Foursomes is that outlandish practice by which team-mates take alternate shots and the whole thing moves along like a dose of salts on wheels with the wind behind it. The only problem with watching their foursomes yesterday was that this game looks like friendly exhibition rather than real golf. For example, Bjornie (as we now call him) hit his first tee-shot into the trees; Monty rescued it brilliantly; smiles all round, even from Westwoody. You see?

I keep thinking it's started but it hasn't. But just wait till tomorrow. Boy oh boy. Being here, the hype is oddly attached to nothing at all, just "wait till Friday and meanwhile buy a periscope if you want to make your own entertainment". I loved the team photo session, but what must the players feel? Not a ball struck in anger yet and already the yellow and green shirts used up. Tomorrow, you can forget those first-day nerves. They will attack the ball like ravening wolves and we shall all say "Hooray, hooray".

Meanwhile, there's time to notice that, aside from the black-and-yellow Johnnie Walker symbol everywhere you look, there's no sponsorship allowed. No Nike hats, no Pringle woollies. For some of these guys, being on the Ryder Cup team must feel like going into prison and having your personal effects confiscated by the admissions officer.

So roll on tomorrow. Sadly, a colleague has just pointed out to me that my lovely periscope resembles an offensive weapon — crushing news, but kindly meant. When tomorrow comes, and I draw it from its pistol-shaped Leatherette case, it appears I may be rugby-tackled at the 1st green and frogmarched to Gibraltar. Amazingly, I am still looking forward to it, however.

Three wise men keep team stable

FROM MEL WEBB

ASK Severiano Ballesteros to hit a golf ball over a ten-foot high wall from a distance of six feet or through a small forest while kneeling down, and he will do it — and has — as though it were no more difficult than bending down to pick up the morning paper. There is one talent, however, that even *El Gran Señor* still does not have, and that is the ability to be in two places at once. Enter Team Ballesteros.

When the big decisions are made at Valderrama this week, Ballesteros will be on his own, and that is the way he would want it: never in his life has he dodged the taking of responsibility. But he will not be alone and isolated in the making of those decisions, for beside him he has three aides-de-camp who, between them, can boast three parts of a century of golfing know-how.

Ballesteros's lieutenants here are the vice-captain, Miguel Angel Jiménez, Mark James and Tommy Horton. As the temperature inside heads and hearts has risen among the Europe team this week, the gang of three have been constantly at their sides, reassuring, cajoling, encouraging, sympathising.

They have to be all things to all the leading characters in this sporting grand opera. They are Ballesteros's eyes and ears by proxy and a mixture of coach, counsellor and confidant to the players, all working to the common cause of making the whole greater than its constituent parts.

Like the captain himself, James and Jiménez are new to the subtle arts of leading from outside the ropes. Solid and dependable, both as players and people, they provide a calming counterpoint to the passion and fire that burns within the Ballesteros belly.

"I see my strength as being close to the players because I'm still out there, playing alongside them, on a weekly basis," James said. "I feel pretty close to them, the young ones included, and I'd like to feel that, if they are particularly happy with a pairing — or not, for that matter — they can come to me and I'll listen. In that way, I suppose, I am a sort of a conduit, a link between the players and Seve.

"In the practice days, I'm assessing all the pairings and reporting back to Seve. He has his ideas as to what he wants, but, if things are not working, we mustn't be afraid to tell him.

"Once the match has started, it's even more important for us to be out there. Seve can't be with everybody. His role is to take the overview of things, so it's up to us to let him know how things are going."

Horton brings different qualities to the team. A player in 1975 and 1977, he has been involved in a back-room capacity in every match since. When wisdom born of vast experience is called for this week, Ballesteros could wish for no better adviser.

They are a formidable quartet, four components of a computer that is programmed to produce the correct answer to any given question. They will get things wrong this week, for they are only human. If they do it too often, they will surely be held to account. If they do not, the praise will be hard earned. No, Ballesteros cannot be in two places at once; but he knows three men who can.



James: close to players

Mickelson dips into his box of tricks

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES

LEE JANZEN, who formed a promising double act with Brad Faxon in their joint post-practice press conference here yesterday, admitted that the Americans had a few jokers in their team but revealed that he was keeping a particularly wary eye on Phil Mickelson.

"He's scheming something," Janzen said. "I'm trying to keep close to him so I'm not the one who gets it." On close inspection, the left-handed Mickelson does have a bit of a wicked glint in his eye and he showed that he was game for a laugh with a classic bit of showmanship on the golf course.

Mickelson was playing with Tiger Woods, Fred Couples and Davis Love III. The 27-year-old has long been expected to end Bob Charles's career as a quizmaster's quint-essential sporting quirk (the only left-hander to win a major championship), but, unlike his playing partners, he has yet to win that elusive major title. Couples won the Masters in 1992, Woods sneaked home at Augusta this year and the paint has yet to dry (along with some of the tears) on Love's US PGA Championship at Winged Foot last month. Yet Mickelson left no one watching in any doubt that he belonged in such company.

At the 17th, where there was a big, multinational crowd drawing its own conclusions about Seve's hole (Ballesteros's redesign in 1993 has been praised and condemned, not necessarily in equal measure — Mickelson thought it a great par four rather than a par five), the left-hander was the star turn.

First, he holed out with a wedge from the fairway, then, to the delight of the spectators, he and Woods demonstrated the art of the flop shot from the fringe at the back of the green to a pin a few yards away — too little flop and the ball was likely to run back down the hill into the water, too much and it would stay at the player's feet.

As the players turned to go, a voice yelled: "Hit it backwards." There was a pause — and puzzlement. The voice bellowed again: "Hit it backwards." A brief discussion followed and Mickelson placed his ball on the grass beside one of the bunkers in the hill behind the green.

He then faced away from the green, looked back to check that Woods was safely out of the line of fire and, opening the face of the club, hit the ball high in the air, over his own head on to the green. There was pandemonium after this piece of prestidigitation, a party trick that Mickelson used to practise in the back yard at home.

It will now be discussed in golf club bars all over Europe but not, one hopes, attempted. Woods, Couples and Love, temporarily eclipsed, just laughed. Mickelson was the man of the moment and, when things get more serious, there is every chance that he will turn out to be one of the men of the match.

Calculating captains measure stomach for a fight

Michael Calvin suggests that it will be mental as anything when the 1st tee beckons the players tomorrow

Per-Ulrik Johansson hits an average of 200,000 golf balls a year, but he will never forget the single shot that was physically beyond him. The terror struck precisely 12 minutes before he was due to make the opening drive of his Ryder Cup debut, and his brain ordered his body to surrender.

"It doesn't really matter who hits the first shot, does it?" he asked his foursomes partner, Bernhard Langer, as they gathered themselves on the practice tee at Oak Hill two years ago. The German, recognising the hint of panic in his hushed tones, instantly accepted the responsibility.

He allowed Johansson to ease his way into the match with a routine mid-iron from the sanctuary of the 1st fairway, and the pair went on to defeat Ben Crenshaw and Curtis Strange. "You want to be a little nervous out there, but not out of control," the Swede acknowledged with a bashful smile yesterday morning. He knows, as well as anyone, the complexity of the mind games that decide winners of the Ryder Cup.

It is easy to fret, but far better to make a friend of fear. That sanitises stress, puts peer pressure into perspective.

"The best thing about the Ryder Cup is you put yourself in the position to get scared to death about how you are going to perform," Tom Kite, the United States captain, insisted with the quiet desperation of a timeshare salesman from Montserrat. "People don't understand how wonderful that feeling is."

Hmm. According to Ian Woosnam, "you feel like you're going to throw up". Davis Love III observed, with equal delicacy: "There are times you're so nervous you can't spit." The respective captains might attempt to project the inner peace of Buddhist monks, but the intestinal tracts of their teams are a more reliable gauge of reality.

"I felt the players could handle things as long as I didn't portray a defeatist attitude," Bernard Gallacher, who is no longer bound by the conventions of the Europe team captaincy, said. "It was up to me to give an impression of calm, even though, underneath that facade, all I felt was panic."

Severiano Ballesteros, his successor, is a little less circumspect. He is impulsive, emotional, and cannot be true to himself until Sunday night. He is a bohemian acting as a bank manager, and it cannot last.

"He'll be running around everywhere like a headless chicken," Woosnam laughed. "It's good for the young guys to see someone so excited. It might just give them a buzz."

The process of integrating the Ryder rookies poses a delicate psychological dilemma. Unfulfilled ambition burns in the eyes of young men such as Darren Clarke, Lee Westwood and Ignacio Garrido, who played with Nick Faldo yesterday. Their body language registered private concerns, imaginary slights, suppressed emotions.

Clarke's demeanour, during his initial partnership with fellow newcomer Garrido, suggested he felt that his chances of early selection had receded dramatically. Westwood, one of his closest friends on tour, radiated similar unease alongside Faldo.

Officials radioed Ballesteros for permission to change the teams to enable Faldo to play with the similarly meticulous Garrido for the rest of the round. "You've got to put them under your wing, shield them from the bullets, and let them be themselves," Faldo said. "It helps if you let a rookie freewheel it."

There are 66 possible permutations that the captains can come up with today, when they announce the pairings for the opening set of fourball matches, and each is a distinctive blend of human chemistry. This is their equivalent of stepping on to the 1st tee, the point of no return.



Johansson: terror struck before Ryder Cup debut

By day, Ballesteros has been prowling the course, his brow knotted in a perpetual frown. He has been waking in the night, and making notes in a small, blue, hardbacked book.

"I've been researching the chemistry," he said. "You can tell how players feel by the way they look at each other, the way they talk to each other. I write down how they play, how nervous they are."

Kite, a different animal, is more clinical. His information is stored in a small laptop computer, and contains such meteorological minutiae as the wind strength and direction at the course over the past 300 days. "I know I'm going to get second guessed," he said. "It doesn't bother or intimidate me."

Fred Couples was happy to supply guidance. "You need to be comfortable with your partner," he stressed. "Saying sorry all day long, and telling people not to worry, is not what you want.

"That happens because you're not familiar with the guy. You're begging yourself to hit it straight, and that's hard. It kinda wears on you."

Phil Mickelson, his practice partner, accepts that concessions have to be made to individualism. "Each guy is different," he argued.

"With Fred, you just let him do his thing. You don't need to rah-rah him to victory. He knows how to get there. Some players need more motivation to get excited. Others need to calm down."

Sometimes, Ballesteros cannot help himself. He was obliged to pose with the Cup with Tom Kite at one of the many pre-match functions this week. "This is as close as you'll get to this," Ballesteros said through his smile. Kite laughed, but the point had been made. As Per-Ulrik Johannson can testify, this is serious stuff.

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6/1 Faldo
6/1 Langer
8/1 Olazabal
8/1 Woosnam
9/1 Westwood
11/1 Parnevik
12/1 Clarke
14/1 Rocca
16/1 Johansson
20/1 Bjorn
33/1 Garrido
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FOOTBALL

Merson finds a new direction far from home

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

PAUL MERSON, the former Arsenal striker, has had his problems with drink, drugs and gambling, which he is gradually overcoming, but his move to Middlesbrough three months ago has hardly helped the healing process. He now has to make a daily 600-mile round trip to Teesside, from his home in Hertfordshire, and he admits it is starting to affect his family life.

"I have to get up at 6.45 in the morning to get to training and I sometimes feel tired even before I get there," he said. "I'm finding it hard to settle, and it's tough for me at the moment, but I'm determined to make a go of it with Middlesbrough. I love the club and the players and the football has been brilliant."

Although Merson has looked at houses in the North East, his wife, Lorraine, is not keen to move to the area and uproot their three children. "Whatever happens, my family's wishes have to come first," Merson said. "To see as much of the kids as possible, I'm on the train every day and then I'm back again in the evening."

Middlesbrough's game against Barnet at Underhill on Tuesday night, in the Coca-Cola Cup second round, gave Merson a welcome respite. "I was able to get away after our home match against Birmingham City on Saturday, go home for a few days and meet up with the team just before the game," he said. "I just hope we get Arsenal in the next round."

The rest appeared to do him good. Merson scored his second goal for the club, a penalty, since he joined them from Arsenal for £4.5 million during the summer. Middlesbrough beat Barnet 2-0, Mikkel Beck also scoring, as they eased through 3-0 on aggregate.

On an evening devoid of surprises, Sunderland, Reading, Sheffield United, Birmingham, Ipswich Town, Tranmere Rovers, West Bromwich Albion and Oxford United also progressed into the third round. Birmingham lost 2-1 away to Stockport County, who reached the semi-finals last season, but their 4-1 first-leg victory proved decisive.

In the FA Carling Premiership, Wimbledon recovered from 1-0 down against Barnsley to win 4-1 at Selhurst Park. Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, was unhappy at the unsympathetic response from his side's supporters after a poor first-half display.

"Quite frankly, I was disgusted with them," Kinnear said. "We've worked our socks off for this club on a shoestring, but they soon forget that. It's the players I feel sorry for. I told them at half-time to ignore all the rubbish being shouted. The fans were cheering again at the end, of course; it's easy then."

Eric Tinkler, assisted by the apparent use of a hand, gave Barnsley a 41st-minute lead, but Wimbledon replied through Carl Cort, Robbie Earle, Ceri Hughes and Efan Ekoku in the second half. The crowd of 7,668 was the lowest in the Premiership since December 23, 1995, when 7,105 watched Wimbledon play Blackburn Rovers.

Tottenham Hotspur drew 1-1 against Barnsley at Oakwell, Chris Armstrong's second-half header cancelling out Alan Thompson's twentieth-minute penalty. It was Armstrong's first goal for almost 11 months, much of which he has spent recovering from injuries. "I've spent a long time sitting at home thinking about this moment," he said. "It was great to knock it in."

Pallister profits from referee's screen test

BY DAVID MADDOCK

THE Football Association yesterday overturned the red card given to Gary Pallister, the Manchester United defender, in the game against Bolton Wanderers last Saturday.

Pallister was sent off by Paul Durkin after the referee saw him as "raising his fists" in a confrontation with Nathan Blake, who was also dismissed. Pallister, and Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, denied the charge vehemently.

After watching a video of the incident, Durkin admitted that he had got it wrong. "Paul Durkin decided he wanted to look at a video of the match before he filled in his report," an FA spokesman said yesterday. "On the video he saw the incident from a different angle and he has said in his report that he now thinks the offence was only a yellow card."

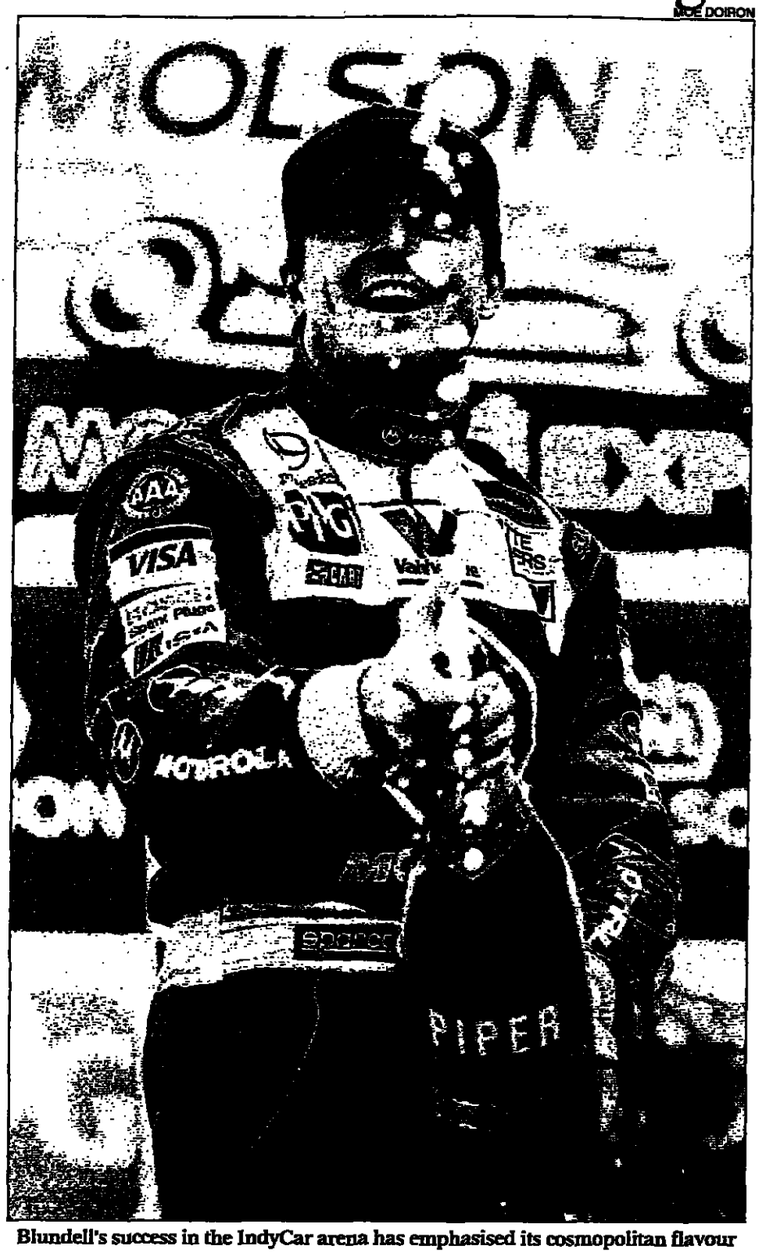
Pallister said: "I am glad that it has ended this way, because I really did not believe I should have been sent off. The referee told me afterwards I was dismissed for raising my fists but I did not do that, and I think the video evidence supports me.

"It would have been painful to have served a suspension for something that I did not do."

Durkin's decision is another illustration of the new mood within the FA, which increasingly has allowed video evidence to be used in the defence of players. In the past, the English game's governing body had flatly refused to allow television recordings to aid an accused party's case.

Craig puts accent on widening horizons

Tim Hallissey on the Englishman who is exporting IndyCar to the motor racing world



MOE DOIRON

Blundell's success in the IndyCar arena has emphasised its cosmopolitan flavour

An IndyCar race is a taste of America as sumptuous as a slice of mom's finest apple pie. It is a giddy, gaudy cavalcade — awash with colour, cash and the corporate logo — that swirls around the sleekest motorhomes amid a compelling cacophony of howling engines and even louder T-shirts.

Yet inside the biggest and shiniest of all those mobile fortresses, the one belonging to Championship Auto Racing Teams (CART), which runs the series, the man who orchestrates the whole spectacle details his strategies not in any kind of deep-fried drawl, but with the cut-glass diction of the British ruling classes. Andrew Craig, 47, is the president and chief executive officer of CART and, while the incongruity of his accent grabs the ear, it is the success that he is enjoying that holds the eye.

For years, the series sped relentlessly on its oval-shaped tracks, caring not a jot for the more worldly-wise manoeuvrings of Formula One. Since Craig arrived three years ago, via public school on the Isle of Wight, London University and a prestigious career in sports marketing, its horizons have broadened considerably.

Last month Craig was in Motegi, Japan, for the opening of a new oval that will stage its first race next year. Houston, one of a growing number of road courses, will also make its debut next year, completing a 19-race series that will also take in Australia, Brazil and Canada. Craig hopes fervently that Berlin will be added to the itinerary by the millennium.

He describes himself as "an exporter of racing", but it is a trade fraught with difficulties, demanding the delicate balance of the global imperative against the innate insularity of the American market; Craig handles it with a silken dexterity and bearing that would not be out of place in the diplomatic corps. "We are not trying to be anything other than what we are, which is, after all, the national motor racing championship of America," he said.

"But American products are popular all over the world and we do have to bring CART into the modern arena and make it a more sponsor-friendly series. That is where 95 per cent of revenue comes from, so we need to support that with a good fan base."

The new cosmopolitan flavour is reflected in the present drivers' championship, which has been won, with a race to spare, by an Italian, Alex Zanardi. A Brazilian, Gil de Ferran, has the chance to secure second place in the last race of the series in Fontana, California, on Sunday and it is likely that American drivers will fill only three of the final top ten positions. Among the interlopers, Mark Blundell, the former Formula One driver from Britain whose nascent IndyCar career suddenly found the fast-forward button this summer, is ranked ninth.

With race wins in Portland and Toronto, second place in Michigan and Monterey and near-misses in Detroit and Wisconsin, all in the past nine rounds, Blundell has finally established his credentials, which were rubber-stamped last month when he signed a new two-year deal with his PacWest team.

Although Craig is assiduous in defusing any perceived threat to Formula One from a vibrant, expansionist IndyCar series and is quick to preach the gospel of peaceful co-existance, Blundell, 31, reinforces the growing assertion within motor racing that while the wheels have not yet come off the Formula One machine, it is in need of some motor maintenance.

He is in a good position to judge, having taken up the ITV microphone alongside Murray Walker at the Canadian Grand Prix in June, when Martin Brundle was otherwise detained, taking part in the Le Mans 24-hour race. "There are a few cracks; it is lacking a bit of sparkle," he said. "The people in it are so insulated to outsiders. There is no accessibility; the atmosphere is not so electric. CART, meanwhile, just gets stronger and stronger.

"The racing is some of the best in the world — it's all-out, wheel-to-wheel close competition — and at each race you know any one of a dozen drivers can be the winner."

Eurosport, the pan-European satellite television broadcaster which covers the series, is reaping the benefit of the continental drift in the drivers' standings, providing a further ringing endorsement of Craig's stated ambition of "attracting more people to the track and more people to the television".

This particular American dream, albeit one made in Britain, lives on.

FOOTBALL

Tuesday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Bolton Wanderers 1 Tottenham Hotspur 1; Wimbledon 4 Barnsley 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	7	5	2	0	10	1	17
Arsenal	7	4	3	0	16	8	15
Blackburn	7	4	2	1	18	8	14
Leicester	7	4	2	1	10	5	14
Chelsea	6	4	0	2	19	8	12
Liverpool	7	3	3	1	11	6	12
West Ham	7	3	1	3	10	9	10
Newcastle	4	3	0	1	5	4	9
C Palace	7	3	0	4	6	8	9
Coventry	7	2	3	2	7	10	9
Tottenham	8	2	3	3	6	10	9
A Villa	8	3	0	5	8	13	9
Wimbledon	7	2	2	3	10	10	8
Everton	6	2	1	3	8	10	7
Leeds	7	2	1	4	8	11	7
Bolton	7	1	4	2	6	9	7
Derby	5	2	0	3	5	5	6
Barnsley	8	2	0	6	7	21	6
Sheff Wed	7	1	2	4	7	15	5
Southmptn	7	1	1	5	5	11	4

COCA-COLA CUP: Second round, second leg: Barnet 0 Middlesbrough 2 (Middlesbrough win 3-0 on agg); Bury 1 Sunderland 2 (Sunderland win 4-2 on agg); Peterborough 0 Reading 2 (Reading win 2-0 on agg); Sheffield United 4 Watford 0 (Sheffield United win 5-1 on agg), Stockport 2 Birmingham 1 (Birmingham win 5-3 on agg); Torquay 0 Ipswich 3 (Ipswich win 4-1 on agg), Tranmere 0 Notts County 1 (Tranmere win 2-1 on agg); West Bromwich 4 Luton 2 (West Bromwich win 5-3 on agg), York 1 Oxford United 2 (Agg 2-6) (Oxford United win 6-2 on agg).

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Cheltenham 1 Slough 1; Yeovil 1 Kidderminster 0.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Barrow 3 Radcliffe 0, Blyth Spartans 2 Spennymoor 3; Colwyn Bay 3 Bamber Bridge 1; Frickley 2 Alfreton 1; Guiseley 1 Gainsborough 3; Lancaster 4 Chorley 1; Leigh RMI 1 Accrington Stanley 0. First division: Eastwood Town 0 Lincoln 3; Flixton 1 Buxton 2; Great Harwood 0 Netherfield 0; Gretna 3 Droylsden 2; Harrogate Town 2 Stocksbridge PS 1; Whitley Bay 1 Farsley Celtic 2; Workington 1 Trafford 5.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bath 1 Gloucester 0; Cambridge City 3 Rothwell 3; Halesowen 5 Gresley 0; Hastings 1 Crawley 2; King's Lynn 2 Burton 1; Tamworth 2 Bromsgrove 4. Midland division: Bedworth 0 Corby 0; Brackley 0 Solihull Boro 2; Evesham 2 Sutton Coldfield Town 4; Hinckley 3 Wisbech 1; Ilkeston 0 Blakenall 1; Moor Green 3 Raunds 0, Redditch 0 Stafford 0; Shepshed Dynamo 0 Bilston 4; Stourbridge 1 R C Warwick 0 Southern division: Bashley 3 Waterlooville 0; Fisher 2 Dartford 1; Margate 2 Baldock 0; Newport (IoW) 0 Havant 0; Weymouth 3 Trowbridge 1, Witney 3 Fareham 1; Yate 2 Cirencester 2

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury 1 Hitchin 0, Chesham 1 Enfield 2; Dulwich 5 Bishop's Stortford 0, Hendon 0 Heybridge Swifts 2, Kingstonian 5 Harrow 2; Oxford City 0 Purfleet 0; Sutton United 3 Gravesend and Northfleet 1; Walton and Hersham 3 Carshalton 4; Yeading 2 Basingstoke 2 First division: Abingdon Town 1 Uxbridge 2; Berkhamsted 1 Whyteleafe 3, Chertsey 3 Barton Rovers 2, Grays 2 Molesey 0; Hampton 0 Billericay 2; Romford 3 Wokingham 0; Wembley 0 Staines 0, Worthing 2 Maidenhead United 1 Second division: Banstead 2 Canvey Island 2 Egham 3 Horsham 2; Marlow 2 Leighton 0, Met Police 1 Wealdstone 0; Tilbury 1 Tooting and Mitcham 1; Windsor and Eton 2 Barking 3; Witham 1 Hungerford 3 Third division: Kingsbury 2 Southall 0

LEAGUE OF WALES: Barry 3 Haverfordwest 2; Connah's Quay 2 Bangor City 2; Newtown 3 Rhayader Town 1; Total Network Solutions 3 Welshpool 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Crystal Palace 1 Portsmouth 0; West Ham 2 Brighton 4

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Grimsby 3 Port Vale 1 Second division: Bradford 1 Rotherham 4.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Stourport 3 Westfields 0

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Halesowen H 1 Bridgnorth 1 Invitation Cup: Barwell 3 Ludlow 1

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash 1 Sandhurst 2; Cobham 2 Ashford 4; Farnham 3 Godalming and Guilford 2; Merstham 1 Netherne 3.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon 2 North Leigh 0; Banbury 0 Highworth 0; Carterton 1 Fairford 1.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Gosport 1 Wimborne 2.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS: O'Brien Butchers Premier division cup: Amersham 1 Beaconsfield 0, Milton Keynes 1 Buckingham Athletic 0; Biggleswade 1 Bedford 1; Waltham Abbey 4 St Margaretsbury 1; Letchworth 3 Royston 2; Harpenden 1 London Colney 2; Welwyn Garden 5 Hoddesdon 1; Langford 1 Arlesey 1

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR 1 Holker Old Boys 0, Chadderton 1 Atherton Collieries 2; Darwen 3 Glossop North End 3; Kidsgrove 4 Haslingden 0; Mossley 1 Clitheroe 1; Rossendale 3 Maine Road 1.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Eccleshill 1 Maltby M.W. 2; Glasshoughton Welfare 1 Pickering 0; Hatfield Main 0 Arnold 2; Hucknall 1 Armthorpe Welfare 2; Liversedge 0 Pontefract Cols 2; North Ferriby 4 Selby 0; Ossett Town 1 Sheffield 2.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bristol Manor Farm 2 Chard 2; Melksham 2 Backwell 1, Paulton 2 Mangotsfield 1; Westbury 0 Brislington 3 Postponed: Odd Down v Chippenham.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne 0 St Neots 2; Cogenhoe 3 Desborough 1, Ford Sports 1 Buckingham 2; Holbeach 0 M Blackstone 3; Long Buckby 8 Wootton 2; Stamford 3 Boston 1; Stotfold 1 Eynesbury 1.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Horsham Y M C A 2 Whitehawk 4; Langney Sports 4 Mile Oak 1; Pomfield 0 Arundel 2; Redhill 2 Peacehaven and Telscombe 0.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Folkestone Invicta 3 Slade Green 0, Herne Bay 5 Hythe 1, Tunbridge Wells 2 Corinthian 2

FA YOUTH CUP: First round qualifying: Scunthorpe 5 Marine 1.

SCHOOLS MATCH: Boodle and Dunthorne Cup: First round: Wellingborough 0 Lancing 0 (aet, Wellingborough win 4-2 on pens). Fuji Film Trophy: First round: Havant 2 Southampton 3 (aet). Inter-association: Salford 2 Bolton 2

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group two: Moldova 0 Georgia 0 (in Chisinau). Group six: Slovakia 3 Spain 4 (in Trnava).

ITALIAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Internazionale 3 Foggia 2 (Inter win 4-2 on agg).

DUTCH LEAGUE: PSV Eindhoven 3 Fortuna Sittard 2

BELGIAN CUP: First round: Standard Liege 1 Antwerp 1 (Standard Liege win 4-1 on pens); Lokeren 2 RWD Molenbeek 1; Alost 3 RTFC Liege 2; Ghent 3 Lommel 5; FC Mechelen 3 Westerlo 2, Genk 5 Beveren 1, Waregem 1 Saint-Trond 0; Cercle Bruges 2 Ostend 2 (Ostend win 7-6 on pens).

GERMAN CUP: Second round: MSV Duisburg 1 VfL Bochum 0; Karlsruhe SC 4-2 on pens); Eintracht Frankfurt 3 Werder Bremen 0; Eintracht Trier 1 Schalke 04 0. Waldhof Mannheim 4 Energie Cottbus 3; Alemannia Aachen 2 VfB Leipzig 1 (aet); VfL Wolfsburg 3 Bayern Munich 3 (aet; Bayern won 4-3 on pens)

RUGBY UNION

Chalmers' switch provides new twist

BY KEVIN FERRIE

THE debate about who is the best man to wear the No 10 shirt for Scotland this season took an unexpected new twist yesterday.

Craig Chalmers, widely thought to be the leading contender for the fly-half position, was selected at inside centre for Scottish Borders in their Heineken Cup visit to Bath on Saturday.

It is the first time that Chalmers, 28, has played there since his schooldays, and he said: "My preferred position is 10, there is no hiding that, but I am quite prepared to play at centre if it is best for the team. Anyway, it is not so much the position you are playing now, you've just got to get on with the rugby and be versatile. It is not a bad thing to be seen in that light."

If Chalmers continues to be selected out at inside centre, it could leave Scotland with a real selectorial headache in the position for the game against Australia in November.

Gregor Townsend occupied the role with distinction in 1996, but fell out of form and favour last season. However, Townsend made up some ground with his dependable performances during the British Isles series win over South Africa in the summer.

Duncan Hodge, capped as a late replacement during the match against France last season, has emerged as a third contender. Hodge was so authoritative in five of Scotland's six matches on their development tour of Africa that he was given the captaincy for the final match and led the team to an impressive win over Eastern Province. His selection could also resolve another problem since he is the most reliable placekicker in the country.

Chalmers appeared to have become the favourite once more this season when Townsend, at Northampton, and Hodge, at Edinburgh, were not selected at fly-half for recent European Conference ties, but were chosen instead at centre.

CYCLING

Obree left out of team for Spain

BY PETER BRYAN

GRAEME OBREE, twice world pursuit champion and British time-trial record-holder, suffered his third setback in as many weeks yesterday in his attempt to regain international recognition when he learnt that he was not selected for the world championships in Spain next month.

It was not the news he wanted or expected. He was midway through moving home at Irvine, Ayrshire, and had high hopes of joining Chris Boardman for the 44-kilometre time-trial at San Sebastian on October 9.

Obree was selected for the world track championships in Perth, Australia, last month, but was not given a ride. He was then named for the Grand Prix of France time-trial a fortnight ago. The event was cancelled.

He and several other world championship aspirants believed that the British Cycling Federation 26-mile championship next Sunday would be a selection event for San Sebastian and had based their late-season programme around it.

Obree said that although disappointed at non-selection, he could still compete on Sunday. "After all, it's the British championship and that means a lot to me," he said, between humping packing cases into his new home.

Stuart Dangerfield, second fastest British 25-mile time-trial rider to Boardman, was another disappointed at missing a world championship place. "My programme for the last six weeks has been designed as a build-up for the world title," he said.

BRITISH SQUAD: Men: Time-trial: C Boardman, D Miller. Under-23 time-trial: C Wegelius, A Hardy. Junior time-trial: D Williams, B Sandford. Road race: C Boardman, M Sciandri, J Hunt, D Miller, M Stephens, J Tanner, M Walsham, D Smith. Under-23: P Wilkes, S Quinn, J Clarke, J Burrows, P West. Junior: B Wiggins, S Joseph, N Swithenbank, M Lonie. Women: Time-trial: Y McGregor, M Johnson. Road race: Y McGregor, C Alexander, M Lawrence, A Hunter, M Hughes, S Boyden. Junior road race: C Gillilan.

☐ The Dutch rider, Leon van Bon, edged out Laurent Bochard, of France, to win a sprint finish to the eighteenth stage of the Tour of Spain yesterday.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The London Trophy Bridge Competition is the brainchild of Freddie Della Porta and has now been running for nearly two decades. This year Hilton Hotels sponsored the event. The idea is to introduce duplicate bridge to a wider group of participants. 'Non-bridge' clubs, typically tennis and golf clubs where bridge is played, are encouraged to enter. Only simple systems are allowed. Danny Roth describes this hand from the 1997 final, an example of overbidding good hands and underbidding poor ones.

Dealer West — Love all — Aggregate scoring

	♠Q84 ♥J974 ♦98 ♣Q943	
♠9532 ♥AQ1083 ♦4 ♣865	N W E S	♠K1076 ♥62 ♦Q1032 ♣AK10
	♠AJ ♥K5 ♦AKJ765 ♣J72	

S	W	N	E
–	Pass	Pass	1 NT
Dble	2 H	Pass	Pass
3 NT	All Pass		

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: eight of hearts.

A number of points are relevant here. First of all, opening a weak no-trump in third seat, even non-vulnerable, carries considerable danger at aggregate scoring. One Diamond is more prudent. Secondly, I do not think North should be frightened to double Two Hearts. Some of the biggest penalties can be gained in the partscore zone and if you never double anyone into game, you are not doubling enough. If South has doubled One No-Trump on a long running suit with little outside, he can always take it out.

Thirdly, if South bids Three Diamonds at his second turn, that is the measure of his hand. North always has another chance. Fourthly, with a promising heart lead West should not have been frightened to double Three No-Trumps. Clearly, she feared a long running suit, but East was likely to have enough strength to prevent South from pinching an immediate nine tricks.

The play matched the bidding. Dummy's nine of hearts won the first trick and South decided to take the spade finesse, and pray that the queen of diamonds dropped in two rounds. That resulted in four down.

☐ Since the launch of The Times Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge in July 76 heats have been organised. They are taking place all over the United Kingdom, from Jersey to Dundee. For entry details telephone 0181 942 9506.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

UK Triumph

Grandmaster Jonathan Mestel, resident in Cambridge, but lecturing at Imperial College in London, has scored a triumph by winning the World Problem Solving Championship at Pula in Croatia.

Mestel has thus achieved the unique feat of gaining the grandmaster title both in over-the-board tournament play and in the realm of problem solving.

Kasparov's loss

In his record breaking simultaneous display against the Argentine national team, Garry Kasparov lost just one game. In the following encounter Kasparov's attempt to gain counterplay on the queen's flank in a sharp variation of the Sicilian Defence allows White to create weaknesses in that sector.

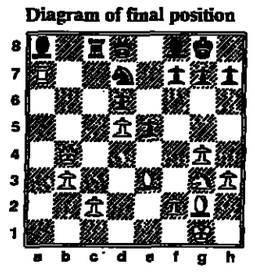
Spangenberg deftly surrounds Kasparov's vulnerable points on the left flank and when material losses became inevitable, Kasparov resigned.

White: Spangenberg
Black: Kasparov
Buenos Aires, September 1997

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	g3	e5
7	Nde2	Be7
8	Bg2	b5
9	0-0	Bb7
10	h3	Nbd7
11	g4	b4
12	Nd5	Nxd5
13	exd5	0-0
14	Ng3	Re8
15	a3	a5
16	Be3	Ba6
17	Re1	Qb8
18	axb4	axb4
19	b3	Rc8
20	Qd2	Nc5
21	Ra2	Bb7
22	Rea1	Rxa2
23	Rxa2	Ba8
24	Ne4	Nd7
25	Ra4	Qc7
26	Ra7	Qd8
27	Ng3	Bf8
28	Qxb4	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Spectacular offer

Kirsan Ilumzinov, president of Fide, the world chess federation, who also doubles as president of the autonomous Russian Republic of Kalmykia, has made an amazing offer to support the world chess championship for the next two decades.

- He has offered $50 million for a World Chess Foundation to be founded in Switzerland to fund the championship for the next 20 years.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

FEN
a. A dragon
b. Part of a canon
c. A major scholar at Emmanuel

GAYDIANG
a. A homosexual party
b. A Burmese diacritic
c. A kind of junk

GROSCHEN
a. A large bantam
b. A silver coin
c. Duodecimal algebra

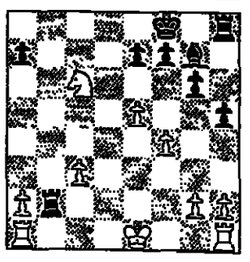
FASCET
a. "Let it be done"
b. A Roman rod
c. A bottle-carrier

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

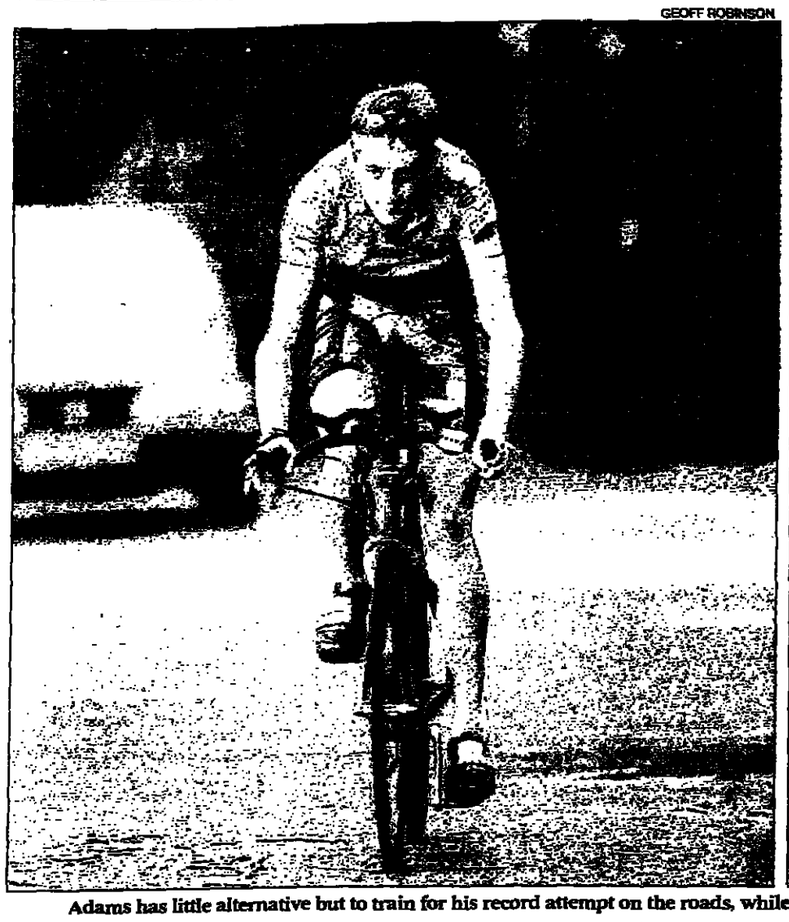
By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Flis - Widera, Poland 1997.
Here White came up with an unusual winning move. Can you see it?



Solution on page 46

GEOFF ROBINSON



ANDREW HASSON



Adams has little alternative but to train for his record attempt on the roads, while in-line skating is another sport poorly catered for

Cyclists find nowhere to ride

BRYANT'S EYE

The latest sport for some of our policemen, it seems, is harassing people for "exercising furiously" on the highway.

It always used to be said that one of the great social values of sport was that it kept kids off the streets. But you should try telling that to Tony Adams or the army of in-line skaters who hone their hearts, lungs and legs on the parks and pavements of our land.

Adams is the Cambridge cyclist who this week fell foul of an obscure 150-year-old law drafted to deal with horsemen galloping too quickly. He was prosecuted for "cycling furiously", after police spotted him in the early hours of the morning in training for an attempt on one of the toughest of cycling records.

He was doing about 25mph in a 30mph zone but, while drivers could carve him up without breaking the speed limit, he was pulled in for flouting an ancient horse law. Adams, 24, a postal worker, says that he wants to attack the one-hour record, held by Chris Boardman, of Britain, the former Olympic pursuit champion, who covered 56.38 kilometres (just over 35 miles) in the Manchester Velodrome a year ago.

This is a record much envied and respected in France, where the gendarmes would wave aside the traffic and cheer any cyclist bold enough to train for a crack at it.

Here, though, Adams faces up to three months in prison after refusing to pay the £120 fine slapped on him for offending the Town Police Clauses Act of 1847. He was stopped on one of his regular training routes and it was the early hours of the morning, prompting the question, if he cannot train for his record attempt on the roads, where in Britain can he work out?

For a country that has probably the poorest provision of dedicated cycling paths in Europe, it is remarkable that Britain produces any competitive cyclists. They are not alone among would-be sportsmen and women who are attracting the hostile attention of the authorities because they have nowhere else to exercise.

The most hated are in-line skaters, of whom there are now millions worldwide. In the United States, they rule the parks, in London the pavements, in Paris the streets. There are plenty who would like to see them banned.

The speed of in-line skaters in Hyde Park has already been measured, using radar guns. They have been clocked exceeding 20mph and there has been a lobby to restrict or ban their activities. It cannot be long before some ancient law is dug up to turn the streets into a no-go area for them.

However, like the Lycra brigade of bicycle couriers who tear around the streets of our cities, the in-line skaters are one of the few groups who look like healthy sportsmen in training. Only small and elite groups of professional sportsmen and women can match them for strength, co-ordination and endurance.

> 'Adams was pulled in for flouting an ancient horse law'

Ironically, the Sports Council this week chose Cambridge (where you can end up in court for cycling too vigorously) to hold a convention on the dangers of the sedentary lifestyle of the young. Four hundred delegates from schools and local authorities were warned that lack of exercise among school pupils was creating "an obesity time bomb".

The Sports Council called for a minimum of two hours' exercise a week for children, and quoted figures saying that the average youngster now walks 50 miles a year fewer than a decade ago — and cycles ten miles a year fewer.

However, with so many of our playing fields sold off, and with parks covered in "No ball games" and "No skating" signs, it is no wonder that the streets become their playgrounds.

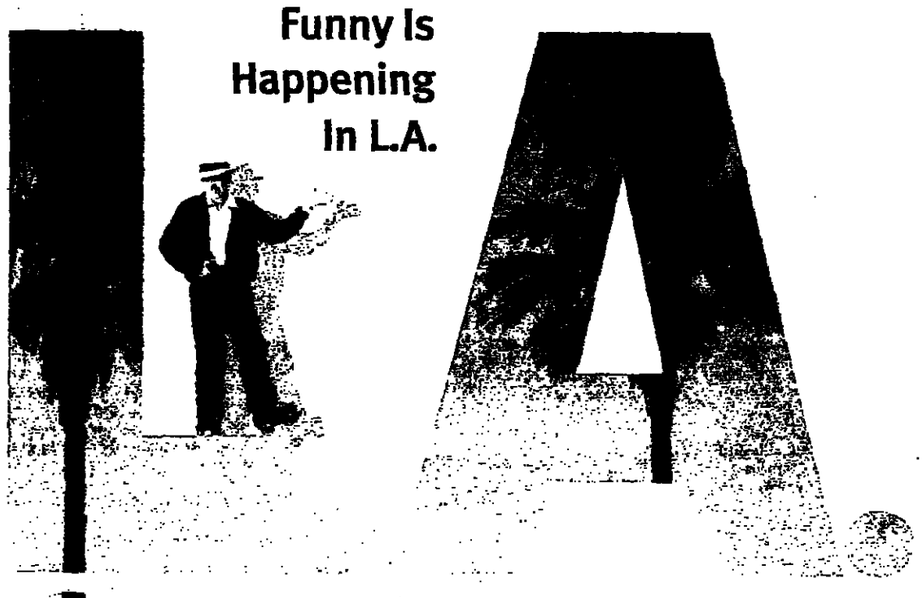
The police are rightly worried about safety, but if we are genuinely concerned about the health, weight and sporting prowess of our young, there must be more safe and dedicated areas for the bladers, the cyclists and the runners who are now forced to share the streets with the traffic.

There is much talk of vast sums of National Lottery money being doled out to improve the standard of British sport, so why not put some of it into providing off-the-street facilities for a sport like in-line skating? For all its trendy image, many might think it more of a genuine sport than, say, ballroom dancing, and anyone who thinks that it is just a passing fad should be aware that the first in-line skates appeared in the 1700s.

In 1760, Joseph Merlin, a member of the Dutch Royal Academy of Sciences and a maker of musical instruments, turned up on his wheeled skates in a London ballroom, playing the violin. As he hurtled towards a large mirror, he discovered that it was impossible to turn or brake on his new invention. Merlin survived. The violin and the mirror did not.

Today, if we are going to survive as a nation of players, rather than spectators, we are going to have to supply the sporting facilities for our young, to keep them off the streets. The police might not like it, but British sport needs a lot more people "exercising furiously".

JOHN BRYANT

STEVE MARTIN
VICTORIA TENNANT RICHARD E. GRANT
Something Funny Is Happening In L.A.

STORY
tonight at 9pm on 5

TELEVISION CHOICE

A new comic triangle

Dad
BBC1 8.30pm

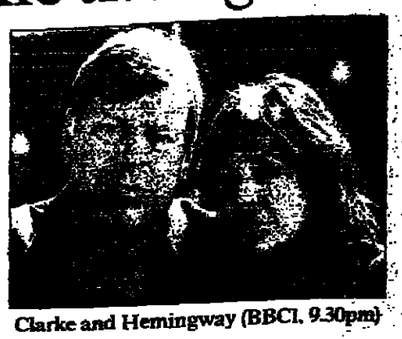
The traditionally twitchy triangle of grandfather, father and son is the basis for Andrew Marshall's new six-part comedy. If you liked his *2point4 Children* you should like this even better because, if nothing else, *Dad* is a vehicle for George Cole, returning to BBC comedy after a gap of 20 years. He plays Brian, the kind of benevolent fusspot we love to hate — the man who never listens, insists he knows all the answers and in fact knows just enough to infuriate his family. Son Allan is played by Kevin McNally with a fine sense of comic timing even though most of what he must do is stare askance at his father and his own son's (Toby Ross-Bryant) apparent failure to make contact with the real world. His wife Beryl (Julia Hills) is the gentle force which binds them all together.

The Uninvited
ITV 9.00pm

Just when you thought there were no further storylines to be wrung from aliens and outer space along comes Peter Bowker with a straight-faced account — in four one-hour chunks — of how an alien force just could be infiltrating human society. Not such a new idea until you see the techniques the "force" uses — such as tipping whole villages into the sea with the miraculous survival of all the villagers, who then begin to rise to positions of eminence in the land. Leslie Grantham, who supplied the original idea, plays the village cop who now rides high in the police establishment and is apparently chummy with British Nuclear Power and the Ministry of Defence. Watch for an absolutely mesmerising underwater sequence when the hero of the piece — a nosy photographer played by Douglas Hodge — investigates for himself the mysteries of the village under the sea.

Horizon: Out of Asia
BBC2, 9.25pm

It's lovely when a programme turns accepted wisdom on its ear — and *Horizon* does it so elegantly. For those who thought that man originated in Africa and gradually spread north, Australian archaeologists, anthropologists and geneticists have got news. Their idea is that not only could we have originated in South-East Asia, but that *Homo erectus* (now thought to be a direct ancestor and not an evolutionary dead end) used tools and was capable of travelling from Java (Java Man) to Australia. This places him at more than one million years old — and the programme has the fossils and much more to prove it. The inevitable sceptics are on hand to mutter through their beards about "inconclusive evidence" but you get carried along with the flow and the implications — that our origins may not be with Mother Africa at all — are breathtaking.



Clarke and Hemingway (BBC1, 9.30pm)

The Locksmith
BBC1, 9.30pm

"Round The Clock We'll Fix That Lock" is the slogan on Roland's van and Roland himself comes across as a very law-abiding solid citizen — caught to a T by the excellent Warren Clarke, who is ably assisted in the comedy stakes by his gormless helper Barry (Chris Gascoyne). But Stephen Bill's six-parter is no comedy and as events evolve a darker, even dangerous side to Roland's character emerges as he takes on the role of a vigilante out to avenge his estranged wife's attack by a burglar. It is the mysterious, masked burglar whose break-ins link each move forward in the plot — a plot which includes Roland and his wife coming together again when their vagrant daughter is found in a hippy commune. Polly Hemingway plays Roland's girlfriend.

Elizabeth Cowley

RADIO CHOICE

Out of Order
Radio 4, 12.25pm

One sector of the schedules that ought not to need the attention of the axe recently sharpened by James Boyle, Controller of Radio 4, is the lunchtime slot during which the audience starts to build ahead of *The World at One*. The half-hour is populated with several series that have become well established, including *Out of Order*, returning for its 13th series. The core purpose is simultaneously to illuminate and debunk the wilder shores of political life, a purpose that ought to be (and clearly is) in tune with the wishes of the audience. The team captains are again Austin Mitchell, the Labour MP, and Michael White, the political writer. Guests in the series include Gerald Kaufman, Chris Mullin and Edwina Currie.

Thursday Afternoon Play: Fossils
Radio 4, 2.00pm

Poppy Miller is a young actress new to radio but she plays Lou, the leading role in this intriguing play, with a sureness of touch that suggests more will be heard of her before long. The same could be said for the writer, Andy Rattenbury, whose first radio play this is. The title works nicely in several respects — on several layers, so to speak — for it concerns Lou's return home after ten years abroad and her attempts to unravel the life of her dead father George (Jim Carter), a palaeontologist who has come to haunt Lou's dreams and therefore becomes the obsessive focus of her waking life. This and Lou's related need to deal with the antipathy of her living family become the keys to unlocking the grisly truth.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe Breakfast Show **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley, includes **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq; includes music by the Longpigs and the launch of the Sound City Festival in Oxford **8.30** Movie Upcate. A review of the latest cinema releases, with Andrew Mate **8.40** John Peel Live music from the Sound City Festival in Oxford **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** David Allan's Country Club **8.00** Paul Jones **9.00** The Deniece Williams Show **9.30** The News Huddlines With Roy Hudd, June Whitfield and Chris Emmett **10.00** Today's the Day **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.30** The Ryder Cup Years. In the last of the series, Tony Adamson takes a look at Europe's recent successes in the 70-year-old competition **8.00** Inside Edge. Kathryn Robinson with sporting news, including the stories behind the Ryder Cup in Valderrama **9.00** SportsAmerica with Alton Byrd **9.30** Sportshop **10.00** News Talk **11.00** News Extra with Valerie Sanderson **12.00** After Hours With Paul Hamlett and Sheila McClennon **2.00am** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffen **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Anna Raeburn **9.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** World Today **7.30** Meridian Books **8.00** News **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** Composer of the Month **9.00** News, News in German (648 only) **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.15** Exit-Pursued by a Bear **9.25** Psychologically Speaking **9.30** Pop the Question **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** Home is Where the Hatred is **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Sport **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Discovery **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Learning World **12.45** From Our Own Correspondent **1.00** News; News in German (648 only) **1.05** World Business Report **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Record News **1.45** Sport **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Multitrack X-Press **4.00** News **4.05** Sport **4.15** Exit-Pursued by a Bear **4.25** Psychologically Speaking **4.30** John Peel; News in German (648 only) **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Britain Today **6.00** News **6.15** World Today **6.30** Record News; News in German (648 only) **6.45** Sport **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Plants of Power **8.00** News Summary **8.01** Outlook **8.25** Pause for Thought **8.30** John Peel **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian Books **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport **12.00** News **12.05am** Outlook **12.30** Vintage Chart Show **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Exit-Pursued by a Bear **1.40** Psychologically Speaking **1.45** Britain Today **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** The Works **3.00** Newsday **3.30** Focus on Faith **4.00** News **4.05** Business **4.15** Sport **4.30** Europe Today **5.00** Newsdesk **5.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann **9.00** Henry Kelly **1.00pm** Listener Request Hour **2.00** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Newsnight **7.30** Sonata. Faure (Cello Sonata No 2 in G minor) **8.00** Evening Concert. Includes Weber (Clarinet Concerto No 2 in F minor); Brahms (Nanie); Berlioz (Harold in Italy) **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Russ and Jono's Breakfast Experience **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Nick Abbot **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Chopin (Nocturne in F sharp minor); Respighi (Pines of Rome), Verdi (Overture Un Giorno di Regno); Debussy (Jeux); Bernstein (Overture Candide); Beethoven (String Quartet in D)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Boismortier (Concerto in E minor); Schubert (Der Fluchtling); Grieg (Lyric Pieces); Liszt (Mazeppa)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Nicola Heywood Thomas, including Bach (Double Violin Concerto in D minor); Mozart (Ruhe Sanft, Mein Holdes Leben, Zaide); Webern (Passacaglia); Mendelssohn (String Symphony No 2 in D), Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 3 in D minor); Strauss (Meinem Kinde; Frühlingsfeier)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Pizzetti, introduced by Susan Sharpe
1.00pm In Repertory. The *Times* opera critic, Rodney Milnes, talks to the German baritone Franz Grundheber about the title role in Berg's *Wozzeck*. Featuring a recording of the opera he made with Daniel Barenboim conducting
2.00 The BBC Orchestras. Brahms (Variations on a Theme by Haydn); Sibelius (Symphony No 6); Elgar (Cello Concerto in E minor), conductor Osmo Vanska, Mats Lidstrom, cello; Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 2 in C minor, Little Russian), conductor Martyn Brabbins
4.00 Ensemble. Penny Gore introduces a recital by Lowri Blake, cello, and Iwan Llewelyn-Jones, piano. Bach (Solo Cello Suite No 1 in G); Mendelssohn (Cello Sonata No 1 in B flat) (r)
4.45 Music Machine, with Verity Sharp
5.00 In Tune. Sean Rafferty and guests join in the 70th birthday celebrations of Sir Colin Davis, the principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra. Includes music from the Boston Symphony Orchestra performing Sibelius's seventh symphony
7.30 Performance on 3. Live from Huddersfield Town Hall With Louise Winter, mezzo, Nigel Robson, tenor, Jonathan Summers, bass, English Northern Philharmonia under Paul Daniel. Walton (Gloria); Holloway (Concerto for Orchestra No 2) **8.25** Beehernz. A story by Penelope Fitzgerald commissioned by Radio 3 and *BBC Music Magazine* **8.45** Walton (Belshazzar's Feast)
9.40 Postscript: Wash. To mark 100 years since the birth of William Faulkner, Ron Bergias reads stories set in Faulkner's mythical Mississippi
10.00 Music Restored. From the York Early Music Festival introduced by George Pratt. A concert was given last July in the Guildhall, Rose Consort of Viols, Christopher Wilson, lute. Dowland's *Lachrimae* or *Seaven Teares* is performed with meditations on the stages of a journey written by Anthony Rooley and read by David Thomas (2/8)
10.45 Night Waves. Patrick Wright profiles Kurt Vonnegut's new book, *Satinst*, which imagines a world facing a global timequakes in 2001
11.30 Composer of the Week: Clementi (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather is joined by the stride pianist Ralph Sutton
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.45** A Boy at the Hogarth Press Jamie Glover reads Richard Kennedy's classic memoir (4/5) **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts, with John Waite
9.30 Look Homeward, Angel. Kim Normention asks questions of identity and tells stories of culture shock from a child's perspective (2/3)
10.00 News; One Flat Summer (FM), by Dave Sheasby. With Gerard McDermott as Ken and Gillian Bevan as Margaret (6/6)
10.00 Daily Service (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. Reports from BBC correspondents around the world
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm Out of Order. See Choice **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Thursday Afternoon Play: Fossils, by Andy Rattenbury. See Choice
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Deke Brehan
4.00 News; 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen sees a new play. *Odysseus Thump*, at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, and reads a history of the British railway
4.45 Short Story: The World Covered in Gold, by Philip Corker, read by Paul McGann
5.00 PM with Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe
5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 First Impressions. Pete McCarthy chairs the panel game for impressionists. With Alistair McGowan, Steve Nallon and guests Jon Culshaw and Peter Serfinowicz. Recorded at The Pleasance in Edinburgh
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Not Just a Pretty Face. The Miss America pageant and some of the remarkable women who have won the coveted title
8.00 Whitehall and the Boffins. Christopher Harvie concludes his investigation into the changing relationship between scientists and politicians since the Second World War (2/2)
8.45 Singular Women. Lesley Joseph recreates her stage role as a person of restricted growth whose performances are under threat (3/4)
9.00 Does He Take Sugar?
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Loitering with Intent. Anna Massey reads Muriel Spark's comic novel (4/10)
11.00 Fear on Four: Tapping, by Colin Haydn Evans. A tapping noise has haunted Tom for thirty years. But Janey has a plan (2/5)
11.30 A Pebble in the Pond. Sheena McDonald talks to Patrick Cox, shoemaker to the stars, about an event from his childhood (r)
12.00 News and Weather
12.30am The Late Book: Light in August, by William Faulkner, read by Ed Bishop (4/12)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.6. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

FEN
(b) A section in Avicenna's Canon. From the Arabic *fann* a species or class. Chaucer, *The Pardoner's Tale, circa* 1386: "I suppose that Avycen Wrot never in canoun, ne in non fen/ Mo wonder sorwes."
GAYDIANG
(c) An Annamese (Vietnamese) vessel, somewhat resembling a Chinese junk. "The Gaydiang is a vessel of Anam [sic], generally with two, but in fine weather with three masts with lofty triangular sails."
GROSCHEN
(b) Before the establishment of the present German monetary system, a small silver coin and money of account variously 1/24, 1/30, or 1/36 of a thaler. From the Middle High German *gros, grosse*. Carlyle, *Sartor Resartus*, 1831: "Their Flag, had you sold it at any market-cross, would not have brought above three groschen."
FASCET
(c) A tool used to introduce glass bottles into the annealing oven. Merrett, *Neri's Art of Glass*, 1662: "Fascets are Irons thrust into the bottle to carry them to anneal."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 0-0-0! invokes the double threats of Kxb2 and Rd8 mate. Black has no good reply.

Sea-faring yarn unravels before our eyes

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

You can't say that ITV shrinks from a scheduling challenge, because it certainly acted bravely in interrupting the flow of last night's two-hour drama, **The Ebb Tide**, halfway through. By handing over to *News At Ten* midway, ITV gave us a chance to pause, to reflect and then to surprise ourselves by the unfamiliar conclusions we had reached. Principally, the conclusion that even news highlights of the Liberal Democrats' annual conference in Eastbourne can seem magnetic: it all depends what you're comparing them to. Since yesterday happened to be the day of the party leader's conference speech, we also appreciated that even someone as imaginitive as Spielberg would find it tough to match Paddy Ashdown when it comes to portraying a fantastical world that bears no plausible relation to reality but which, for a harmless couple of hours, bewitches us by its audicty. And *The Ebb Tide* wasn't even Spielberg.

Let's be positive: if you have ever lost sleep at night, worrying about why this Robert Louis Stevenson short story hadn't yet been turned into a television drama, at least now you know the answer.

The Ebb Tide was a slight story made slighter — paradoxically — by the fact that someone had decided to make a big fuss about it. It withered under the hot lights of attention. Having spotted Robbie Coltrane being interviewed on television the other day, and learnt that he had a passionate interest in the workings of all kinds of engines, you might assume he would have searched out the motor driving this film. Did he ever locate it? To me, it all seemed as gripping as loose knicker elastic.

Coltrane is rarely less than engaging. He served ably enough as Captain Chisholm, who sails a decrepit ship from the Caribbean towards Australia, with a dubious cargo of vintage champagne. But Coltrane didn't seem as sharp as he has been in the roles — most recently Fitz in *Cracker* — that presumably led to his being offered this part in the first place.

Or maybe he was embarrassed by the script, which clunked every time it clicked the plot forward. "Est-ce que tu as une famille?", Captain Chisholm was asked one evening, out of the blue, by a black galleyslave who had just delivered Chisholm's supper to him on deck.

"Do I have a family? Ooh yes," replied Chisholm as he launched into one of those expository speeches that sound as natural as Margaret Thatcher singing *Won't You Come Home Bill Bailey?*

"Yes, I've got a wee girl called Adar. Her mother named her that. Her mother Fiona. She came from the Hebridean islands off the west coast of Scotland. You don't understand a word I'm saying, son, do you." No he doesn't, but don't let that stop you, cap'n. It didn't.

"Adar. It wasn't a name I'd heard of either till that wee girl was born. A bonny thing she was, too. She had red hair from her mother, cascading down her body like waves. A wee angel . . ." Oh, you get the picture. You half expected, him to say, as your history master used to: "You may take notes if you wish."

Things go wrong when Chisholm discovers that the champagne bottles are empty, that the hull is rotten, and that he has been gulled into captaining the vessel as part of some insurance fraud.

Coltrane locks himself in his cabin and gets blind drunk. Why? Luckily, Chisholm's wastrel of a sidekick Billy Bunch was on hand to enlighten us: "This is exactly what happened before, when he went mad . . . his daughter and his wife took it all. Maybe they shouldn't have been at sea with him together. Anyway, the baby recovered, but his wife died. I've never seen a man go mad with grief. After she died, he drank himself mad. Then, we ran aground. Chisholm was blind drunk. Twenty-seven people lost their lives. The wee baby girl survived. She's back in Scotland now. Adar. She must be five years old now." OK everyone, you can put your notebooks down again.

If you can believe it, things then got even worse. "That cloud does not look good," said the galley slave. This was an understatement. It looked like God had spilt a year's supply of Quink black ink over a large slice of the sky.

This was another piece of dramatic shorthand, alerting you to the fact that it was safe to go and make a cup of coffee because the next few minutes would be taken up with the ship being tossed around like a Pooh stick going down the Colorado rapids.

Chisholm and his crew were supposed to be 2,000 miles from any land. But as dawn broke it turned out that they were 500 yards from an island, now deserted but for a spooky, Kurtz-like figure with a large hoard of pearls and a wardrobe of dapper cream linen suits: a sort of Kurtz-Lite.

A few more things happened after that: various people got killed, and it all had something to do with Chisholm's search for redemption, but it was hard to care who had survived and who hadn't. Coltrane is a big man who needs a meaty meal to sink his teeth into: *The Ebb Tide* was a snack.

It was the capstone to a long evening of improbable television. In **Animal People** (BBC1) we saw penguins in the suburbs of Wellington, New Zealand, which have become so used to city life that they now waddle out of the sea and into the local discotheque when they fancy waggling their bottoms to actual music. Nobody stops them. The narrator of *There's A Penguin In The House* was Peter Sallis, whose distinctive voice we previously heard on Nick Park's animated penguin escapade, *The Wrong Trousers*. Presumably, an in-joke. But still not as funny a joke as those madcap Lib Dems.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (60944)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (98783835)
9.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (2621632)
9.30 Style Challenge (1469632)
9.55 Kilroy (T) (5418293)
10.35 Change That (1508019)
11.00 News (T) and weather (4870187)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (9810106)
11.35 Room for Improvement (2481106)
12.00 News (T) and weather (6340309)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (9548800)
12.35 Going for a Song (9524361)
1.00 News (T) and weather (16309)
1.30 Regional News (T) (17428187)
1.40 The Weather Show (87203800)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (77154380)
2.10 Quincy (r) (6299629)
3.00 Through the Keyhole (7882748)
3.25 The Really Useful Show Update (4847458)
3.30 Funnybones (7270800) **3.35** Playdays (8196106) **3.55** The Silver Brumby (8190922) **4.20** Mr Wymi (2683187) **4.35** Cartoon Critters (6895564) **5.00** Newsround (T) (9927800) **5.10** Byker Grove (T) (5996496)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (158038)
6.00 News (T) and weather (545)
6.30 Regional News (125)
7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson Why a non-stop car alarm is driving neighbours round the bend, and the manufacturers who overcharge for car parts (T) (8729)
7.30 EastEnders A bit of detective work puts Pauline on to an important find. Mary's cover could be blown if Sean's discovery becomes widely known. Ruth and Conor leave the families problems behind when they take Lucy fishing (T) (309)
8.00 Animal Hospital New series presented by Rolf Harris (T) (7477)
8.30 FILM **Dad** New comedy series with George Cole and Kevin McNally. Alan Hook worries what to buy his son for his 18th birthday (T) (9212)
9.00 News (T) and weather (5854)
9.30 DRAMA **The Locksmith** New six-part drama with Warren Clarke and Chris Gascoyne. An ordinary man becomes a vigilante when he is accused of viciously attacking his estranged wife (T) (304598)
10.20 QED: Challenging Children Profile of gifted four-year-old Chantelle Coleman (T) (713309)
11.00 Question Time David Dimbleby presides as a London studio audience questions the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, Anne Widdecombe, MP, Liberal Democrat agriculture spokesman Charles Kennedy, and Rosie Boycott, Editor of the *Independent On Sunday* (T) (126854)
12.05am Face of a Stranger (1991) with Gena Rowlands and Tyne Daly. A rich socialite is left suddenly penniless when her husband dies. She befriends a "bag lady" across the street and the two draw comfort from their friendship. Directed by Claudia Weill (594065)
FILM
1.40 Weather (2692201)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode℠ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+℠ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (℠), Pluscode (℠) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Stress (4408835) **6.25** Missing the Meaning? (T) (4410670) **6.50** Jamaica and the Sea (5218670)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (4358090)
7.30 The Adventures of Skippy (r) (6456767) **7.55** Blue Peter (r) (T) (5451545) **8.20** Mouse and Mole (T) (7006800) **8.30** Johnson and Friends (7246090) **8.35** Teletubbies (1033835) **9.00** Cartoon (4863583) **9.10** Numbertime (4850019) **9.25** Megamaths (3826125) **9.45** Come Outside (9548361) **10.00** Teletubbies (68274) **10.30** Storytime (3767564) **10.45** The Experimenter (8924496) **11.05** Space Ark (4884380) **11.15** Zig Zag (2024212) **11.35** English File (2498496) **11.55** Lifeschool (2492212) **12.20pm** Showcase (6342767)
12.30 Working Lunch (74748)
1.00 Barney (73434583) **1.05** Monty (73433854) **1.10** The Craft Hour (5185516) **2.10** Wildlife on Two (r) (31471632) **2.40** News (T) (1885816) **2.45** Match of the Seventies (r) (T) (3736019) **3.25** News (T) (4765800) **3.30** Real Rooms. Reviving the splendour of an Edwardian dining room (903) **4.00** Ready, Steady, Cook (598) **4.30** Going, Going, Gone (6694835) **4.55** Esther (4944926) **5.30** Today's the Day (274)
6.00 Deep Space Nine (T) (902583)
6.45 The O Zone A round-up of the top sounds from this year's music festivals (485800)
7.00 Open to Question Young people put their questions on devolution to Peter Mandelson (T) (9699)
7.30 Leviathan David Walter asks David Steel, John Biffen and Roy Hattersley whether the stage-managed party conferences of today can capture the spontaneous drama of yesteryear (T) (651)
8.00 The Air Show The spectacular approach to Kai Tak airport in Hong Kong; and passenger planes which act as cargo carriers (T) (5019) **WALES:** Anchors Away
8.30 Top Gear The new Jaguar V8 XJ; Aston Martin Vantage; Mercedes SLK and Porsche Boxster (T) (7854)
9.00 Third Rock from the Sun (T) (395309)



Dr Lesley Head at work (9.25pm)

9.25 DOCUMENTARY **Horizon: Out of Asia** New research into the origins of mankind (T) (378564)
10.15 Volcano Stories (750632)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (489090) **11.15** Late Review (291187) **12.00** Weather (3009341) **12.05am** Duckman (3208881)
12.30 Learning Zone: International Enterprise (59423) **1.00** A Question of Evidence (30959) **1.30** Psychology in Action (79336) **2.00** Understanding Organisations (23317) **4.00** The French Experience (12387) **5.00** Business and Work (27133)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (7264651)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (2627816)
9.55 Regional News (1184477)
10.00 The Time, the Place (82600)
10.30 This Morning (T) (18985380)
12.20pm Regional News (6339293)
12.30 News (T) and weather (9527458)
12.55 Shortland Street (9535477) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (58269038) **1.50** Remote Control Cooking (T) (77160941) **2.20** Vanessa (75487922) **2.50** The Natural Health Show (6839651)
3.20 News (T) (4866583)
3.25 Regional News (4865854)
3.30 Potamus Park (1442800) **3.40** Wizadora (7358632) **3.50** The Adventures of Dawdle (1526816) **4.05** Snug and Cozi (3643545) **4.15** Hey Arnold! (T) (4695564) **4.40** Animal Ark (T) (7285651)
5.10 A Country Practice (2434632)
5.36 Crimestoppers (879545)
5.40 News (T) and weather (317854)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (168941)
6.25 HTV Weather (676372)
6.30 HTV News (T) (293)
7.00 Emmerdale Fiona suggests there is an end in sight for Will's trauma (T) (6125)
7.30 WALES: Whatever Happened to the Opera House? (477)
7.30 The Big Story: Angels on the Edge Following a group of nurses, day and night, as they go about their work (477)
8.00 The Bill Beech is about to lose his cool (T) (2545)
8.30 Clive James on TV Clive James takes a fond look back at some of the most memorable moments of British television. His guest is Roger Moore (4380)



Leslie Grantham investigates (9.00)

9.00 DRAMA **The Uninvited** The first episode in a four-part, science-fiction thriller. With Douglas Hodge and Leslie Grantham (T) (7564)
10.00 Political Broadcast: Labour (T) (933038)
10.05 News (T) and weather (221545)
10.35 Regional News (879729)
10.45-12.55am WALES: The Ferret (765922)
11.20 Celtic Fists (T) (807632)
11.55 The Big Story (297361)
12.25 Wacky Weekly World News (3260423)
10.45 The West This Week (248670)
11.35 Frieze Frame (T) (743125)
11.50 Swift Justice (342380) **12.40am** Sound Bites (5280794) **12.55** The LADS (T) (3605591) **1.25** Profiles: Wet Wet Wet (8604666) **1.55** Ed's Night Party (4186510) **2.20** Late and Loud (r) (7611626) **3.15** Waterlines (r) (T) (69188539) **3.40** Good Sex Guide (r) (2935355) **4.35** Time, the Place (r) (31235404) **5.00** Garden Calendar (T) (17510) **5.30** News

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9535477)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2434632)
6.25 Central News (143632)
10.45 Film: Strays (86239477)
12.25am Alfred Hitchcock Presents (4754688)
12.45 Planet Mirth (89794)
1.15 Rockmania (5632775)
2.10 Planet Rock Profiles (9245046)
2.35 God's Gift (8854268)
3.30 Late and Loud (52065)
4.30 Central Jobfinder '97 (4233171)
5.20 Asian Eye (1911046)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (4250090)
1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (33884449)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2434632)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (79293)
10.45 Special Report (765922)
11.20 Power Game (500187)
11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (231564)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2434632)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (941)
6.30-7.00 Big Day Out (293)
10.45 Film: Bullitt (93725748)
5.00am Freescreen (17510)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9535477)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2434632)
6.23 Anglia Weather (226831)
6.25 Anglia News (143632)
6.55-7.00 What's On (678570)
10.45 Cover Story (756274)
11.25 Streetwise (242651)
11.55 New York News (194670)
12.50am Sound Bites (5145046)

GRANADA

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (99632)
9.00 Ysgolion (826309)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (6729)
12.00 Sesame Street (58212)
12.30pm Baby Baby (69816)
1.00 Slot Melthrin (83791361)
1.15 Wil Cwac Cwac (83796816)
1.30 Mark Tully's Faces of India (68187)
2.00 Film: Five Fingers (4477)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (106)
4.30 The Feel Good Factor (390)
5.00 5 Pump (4903)
5.30 Countdown (670)
6.00 Newyddion (508545)
6.10 Heno (984187)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (176800)
7.25 Pryd O Dafod (521187)
8.00 Y Jocars (4877)
8.30 Newyddion (2922)
9.00 Meca (8564)
9.30 Saving the Spoonbill (72380)
10.00 Film: Married to It (73260125)
12.05am Short Stories: Life Savers (3214442)
12.35-1.20 Films on Fire: How Far Home? (9657133)

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (94274)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (99632)
9.00 Schools: History in Action (3809458) **9.20** Geographical Eye (T) (3812922) **9.40** The Maths Programme (T) (9337106) **10.00** Middle English (T) (7659854) **10.15** Le Petit Monde de Pierre (7649477) **10.30** Scientific Eye Special (T) (8929941) **10.50** Film and Video Showcase (8916477) **11.10** The Spanish Programme (2027309)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier Tomato and basil tart; squash, mushrooms, courgettes; chocolate yoghurt scones (T) (6729) **12.00** Sesame Street (58212) **12.30pm** Baby Baby (69816) **1.00** Light Lunch (r) (97699) **2.00** Frisian Dream (11228125)
2.10 The Westerner (1940, b/w) with Gary Cooper and Walter Brennan. Western drama about a cowhand who becomes involved in a range war between homesteaders and cattlemen. Directed by William Wyler (T) (140458)
FILM
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (106) **4.30** Countdown (T) (6689903) **4.55** Ricki Lake (T) (6649354) **5.30** Absolutely Animals (r) (T) (670)
6.00 Boy Meets World (T) (166583)
6.25 Fresh Pop (476354)
6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (T) (835)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (920309)
7.50 Music of the Millennium Paddy Ashdown's favourite music (955019)
8.00 Krill Equation One of the smallest and possibly most important ocean creatures (T) (4877)
8.30 Feast Includes information on food labelling (5/8) (T) (2922)
9.00 Films of Fire: The Dying of the Light Brian Patten attacks ageism (T) (360545)
9.45 Pond Life (r) (T) (707380)
10.00 Secret History: The Whitechapel Murders Investigating the Jack the Ripper murders using contemporary forensic skills (r) (T) (8293)



Director Melvin Van Peebles (11.00)

11.00-2.20am The Ba Ba Zee: Classified X A season devoted to the black experience begins with the director Melvin Van Peebles on the history of the black character in American cinema (19496)
12.00 Sweet Sweetback's Baad Assass Song (1971) A black stud cuts up rough when he sees two white policemen harassing a black youth. Directed by Melvin Van Peebles (139152)
FILM
1.50am Runnin' Man Melvin Van Peebles reflects on his career (4176133)
2.20 Seven Sins Envy (r) (8837591)
2.55 Magic or Medicine? (r) (T) (8856626) **3.55** The Vision Thing (r) (T) (97089591) **4.25** The American Football Big Match (r) (5948423)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02** and **7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (7073748)
7.30 USA High (r) (5237729)
8.00 Havakazoo (5611831)
8.30 WideWorld A look at Cornwall's commitment to attract more visitors (12/15) (6061372)
9.00 Espresso (7515293) **10.00** Exclusive (r) (6796748) **10.30** Instant Gardens (r) (2661516)
11.00 Leeza Chat show hosted by Leeza Gibbons (1133854) **11.50** Double Espresso (69455670)
12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (8966908)
12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (9642748)
1.00 5 News Update (85709670) **1.05 Sunset Beach** (T) (8318922) **2.00** 5's Company (8389583)
3.30 I Love You Perfect (1989) with Susan Dey and Anthony John Denison. A fact-based drama about a young woman who, having found the love of her life, has terminal cancer diagnosed. Harry Winer directs (8479689)
FILM
5.20 5's Company: Late Extra (11950309)
5.30 Move on Up (T) (9868125)
6.00 100 Per Cent Game show without a host (9865038)
6.30 Family Affairs Holly tells Susie a secret about her schooldays (T) (9849090)
7.00 Exclusive Featuring an interview with Tim Roth (8821361)
7.30 Dragon's Tale: Life Preserver A wildlife documentary about the kapok tree and its fibres (T) (9845274)
8.00 The Car Show Motoring magazine presented by Mariella Frostrup and Tristram Payne (8847309)
8.30 5 News (T) (8826816)



Steve Martin exercises (8.00pm)

9.00 LA Story (1991) A comedy written by and starring Steve Martin, about everyday life in today's Los Angeles. Also with Victoria Tennant and Richard E. Grant. Directed by Mick Jackson (96213699)
FILM
10.50 The Jack Docherty Show (2663309)
11.35 Melrose Place (r) (T) (7375903)
12.30am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine presented by Dominik Diamond and Shelley Webb includes soccer action from the Brazilian National League and the US Major League (34450881)
4.35 The Streets of San Francisco with Karl Malden (T) (6298794)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (7490930)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see Vision, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (2006332) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (71835) **10.00** Another World (30903) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (50767) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (28125) **1.00pm** Geraldo (54885) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (16835) **3.00** Jenny Jones (42699) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (21106) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (32274) **6.00** The Live 6 Show (1564) **6.30** Married...with Children (2816) **7.00** The Simpsons (6903) **7.30** M*A*S*H (85005) **8.00** Suddenly Susan (56551) **8.30** The Nanny (1458) **9.00** Seinfeld (100309) **9.30** Mad About You (27854) **10.00** Chicago Hope (64309) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (31632) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (51978) **1.00am** Hit Mix Long Play (2632084)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Flight of the Doves (1971) (60627038) **7.45 Little Bigfoot 2: The Journey Home** (1996) (43730309) **9.30 Shadow Makers** (1989) (73779090) **11.40 First Knight** (1995) (59065748) **1.55pm The Quick and the Dead** (1987) (55321197) **3.25 Little Bigfoot II: The Journey Home** (1996) (71855800) **5.00 Little Giants** (1994) (89470899) **6.45 First Knight** (1995) (74214090) **9.00 Tails You Live, Heads You're Dead** (1995) (62941) **11.00 Amanda and the Alien** (1995) (883583) **12.35am Chef** (1969) (181775) **2.15 I Like It Like That** (1994) (952572) **4.05 Stripper** (1985) (705572)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Three Musketeers (1939) (3644818) **7.15 The Girl in the News** (1940) (1573903) **8.35 Jamboree** (1957) (5840855) **10.00 The Sound of Movies** (1995) (16748) **12.00 The Pride of Jesse Hallam** (1981) (11380) **2.00pm A Chorus of Disapproval** (1989) (48903) **4.00 Time Warrior: Last Battle for the Universe** (1995) (8748) **6.00 Two Harts in 3/4 Time** (1996) (11766309) **7.40 US Top 10** (525449) **8.00 Goldeneye** (1996) (61212) **10.00 Things to Do in Denver When You're Dead** (1995) (60043583) **12.05am Parallel Lives** (1994) (941084) **1.50 The Detective** (1968) (722607) **3.45 Blood Diner** (1987) (44035997)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm A Time to Love and a Time to Die (1957) (80871125) **6.10 The Secret Invasion** (1964) (41520380) **8.00 Peggy Sue Got Married** (1986) (3724090) **10.00 Heartbreak Ridge** (1986) (19158187) **12.10am All That Jazz** (1979) (61506572) **2.15 Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer: Murder Takes All** (1989) (6578404)

TNT

9.00pm Mutiny on the Bounty (1962) (74342212) **12.15am The Thin Man** (1934) (36891210) **2.00 The Pirate** (1948) (76018048) **3.45 A Christmas Carol** (1938) (52345591) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (77458) **7.30** Wrestling (29477) **8.30** Sports Centre (80458) **9.00** Racing News (55598) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (37800) **10.00** Euro Tour Weekly (54800) **11.30** The Pavilion End (53729) **11.50** Futbol Mundial (53729) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (84274) **12.30pm** World of Super League with Eddie and Stevo (93564) **2.30** Futbol Mundial (53099) **3.00** Golf: Ryder Cup — Live (83854) **5.00** Wrestling (3458) **6.00** Sports Centre (6038) **6.30** Football League Review (7390) **7.00** Trans World Sport (96922) **8.00** Golf: Ryder Cup (83458) **10.00** Sports Centre (85903) **10.30** Formula Three (65545) **11.30** Full Throttle (42274) **12.00** Sports Centre (67978) **12.30am** Golf: Ryder Cup (42030) **2.30** Full Throttle (64628) **3.00** Sports Centre (97881) **3.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style (6707125) **7.30** Sports Centre (67866632) **8.00** Racing News (5786106) **8.30** Fishing Tales (5786477) **9.00** Americana Outdoors (5776729) **9.30** Sports Unlimited (1151564) **10.30** Tennis: Grand Slam Cup (1575800) **12.30pm** Football: Coca-Cola Cup (3878090) **2.00** The Pavilion End (88215454) **3.00** Tennis: Grand Slam Cup — Live (4147908) **7.00** Sports Centre (9061106) **7.30** The Rugby Club (2309670) **9.00** Football League Review (7229309) **9.30** Tennis: Grand Slam Cup (1845870) **11.30** Tight Lines (7276090) **12.30am** Australian Rules Football (5806572) **2.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Wrestling (29660496) **1.00** The Weekend Fisherman (65164090) **1.30** The Ultimate Fishing Show (29640632) **2.00** The Golden Age of Motor Racing (71112038) **3.00** Great Moments in Sport (76860908) **3.30** Sport USA (46794106) **5.00** Beach Volleyball (71810403) **5.30** Ten Pin Bowling (84100632) **6.30** Sailing (31062767) **7.00** Tight Lines (37722212) **8.00** Hockey: World Junior Men's Championship (37719748) **10.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (88199699) **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Woman's Golf (14545) **8.30** Equestrianism (79748) **9.30** Mountain Bike (49616) **10.30** Motors (38212) **11.30** Football (35380) **1.00pm** Snowboard (94125) **1.30** Mountain Bike (38583) **2.00** Live Cycling (65458) **3.30** Archery (52380) **4.30** Olympics (3941) **5.00** Athletics (9019) **5.30** Martial Arts (61293) **6.30** Monster Trucks (2458) **7.00** Darts (81090) **8.00** Football (68534) **10.00** Truck Racing (80351) **11.00** Sailing (62477) **11.30** Tennis (60670) **12.00** Cycling (52046) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Rentaghost (4985583) **7.35** Neighbours (9730941) **8.00** Crossroads (9218854) **8.25** EastEnders (3736583) **8.00** The Bill (6851670) **9.30** Howards' Way (4126019) **10.00** In Loving Memory (1508293) **10.30** The Sullivans (8887854) **11.00** Boon (53019564) **12.05pm** Crossroads (72130651) **12.30** Neighbours (41222835) **1.00** EastEnders (37620057) **1.35** No Place Like Home (56629899) **2.15** Liver Birds (8217458) **2.50** Are You Being Served? (2839583) **3.30** The Bill (4828903) **4.00** Casualty (11555477) **5.05** EastEnders (5452980) **5.40** Bob's Full House (9397458) **6.20** Two Ronnies (4019309) **7.20** Dr Who (92748547) **7.50** Home to Roost (1781421) **8.20** Citizen Smith (8039835) **9.00** The Bill (2017670) **9.30** Dangerfield (56636835) **10.35** Three of a Kind (2082380) **11.15** Live at Jongleurs (9089800) **11.45** Gold Goes Pop (5626583) **12.30am** It's a Knockout (7001665) **1.30** Big Deal (3764794) **2.30** Shopping (5447161)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am El Uncut (1662926) **6.30** Beadle's About (6511458) **7.00** Coronation St (8264903) **7.30** Families (8283038) **8.00** Surprise Surprise (5038274) **9.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (5367534) **10.00** Mission Impossible (8272922) **11.00** Sandbaggers (8269458) **12.00** Coronation St (5248361) **12.30pm** Families (1889380) **1.00** Blind Date (1884835) **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (5536767) **3.00** Beadle's About (8882212) **3.30** Surgical Spirit (7780212) **4.00** Mission Impossible (8868570) **5.00** Sandbaggers (6873564) **6.00** Families (7786496) **6.30** Coronation St (7777748) **7.00** Blind Date (7542632) **8.00** Mission Impossible (7551380) **9.00** Coronation St (2486534) **9.30** The Comedians (1878816) **10.00** Prime Suspect III (7541903) **11.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Dumbo (40908) **6.30** Lamb Chop (54632) **7.00** Chip 'n' Dale (92380) **7.30** Quack Pack (88187) **8.00** Dinosaurs (47767) **8.30** Bonkers (46038) **9.00** Gummi Bears (20080) **9.30** Groundling Marsh (66380) **10.00** Sesame Street (17699) **11.00** Hunny Pot (5978212) **11.15** Rosie and Jim (4110274) **11.40** Sing Me a Story (6936995) **12.00** Big Garage (7555854) **12.45pm** Winnie the Pooh (25878632) **1.00** Sesame Street (65651) **2.00** Amazing Animals (6941) **2.30** Care Bears (1361) **3.00** Tale Spin (2748) **3.30** Goof Troop (3106) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (5941) **4.30** Aladdin (1125) **5.00** Gargoyles (7293) **5.30** Dinosaurs (2477) **6.00** Blossom (2090) **6.30** Boy Meets World (6670) **7.00** Home Improvement (4729) **7.30** Wonder Years (2854) **8.00 FILM: The Richest Cat in the World** (10274) **9.30** Home Improvement (57632)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Daffy (6318038) **6.30** Billy the Cat (2333670) **7.00** Pinocchio (4997699) **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo (4976106) **8.00** Beetleborgs (8571851) **8.30** Masked Rider (8570922) **9.00** Magic Box (8561274) **9.30** Dudley (6879651) **10.00** Inspector Gadget (2324922) **10.30** Samurai Pizza Cats (8567458) **11.00** Sweet Valley High (4985854) **12.00** Ace Ventura (8581038) **12.30pm** Casper (6880767) **1.00** The Tick (4989670) **1.30** Iron Man (6889038) **2.00** Fantastic Four (9044090) **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo (1564583) **3.00** Beetleborgs (9053125) **3.30** Masked Rider (1483800) **4.00** Ace Ventura (1575835) **4.30** Casper (1571018) **5.00** The Tick (8088670) **5.30** X Men (1585699) **6.00** Spiderman (1585212) **6.30** Sweet Valley High (1576564)

TCC

6.00am Happily Ever After (53477) **6.30** Bobby's World (67108) **7.00** Sprou (42534) **7.30** Dennis the Menace (84361) **8.00** Batman (43941) **8.30** Bots Master (42212) **9.00** Art Attack (33564) **9.30** Earthworm Jim (78854) **10.00** Gravedale High (58458) **10.30** Flash Gordon (38748) **11.00** Creepy Crawlers (98816) **11.30** Gigantor (99545) **12.00** Gravedale High (40800) **12.30pm** Bots Master (73670) **1.00** Batman (92075) **1.30** Eek the Cat (72941) **2.00** Creepy Crawlers (6187) **2.30** Flash Gordon (4635) **3.00** Sonic (6822) **3.30** Earthworm Jim (9380) **4.00** Dennis the Menace (5187) **4.30** Art Attack (4699) **5.00** Close

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes (38813) **6.30** Aashhh! Real Monsters (53380) **7.00** Hey Arnold! (95800) **7.30** Rugrats (87835) **8.00** Doug (89729) **8.30** Country Mouse and City Mouse (20800) **9.00** CBBC (95380) **9.30** CBBC (45090) **10.30** Babar (91564) **11.00** Magic School Bus (76670) **11.30** Bananas in Pyjamas (84698) **12.00** Paddington Bear etc (82816) **12.30pm** Portland Bill etc (19458) **1.00** Dr Seuss (87629) **1.30** Little Bear Stories (18729) **2.00** Jim Henson's Animal Show (4941) **2.30** CBBC (6651) **3.00** CBBC (3908) **3.30** Aashhh! Real Monsters/Doug (8496) **4.00** Hey Arnold! (7903) **4.30** Rugrats (3187) **5.00** Sister Sister (5293) **5.30** Sister Sister (7767) **6.00** Sabrina (7380) **6.30** Kablam! (8632)

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing (6843274) **12.30** Ready or Not (4117903) **1.00** Madison (8649818) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (4116274) **2.00** Saved by the Bell (6201361) **2.30** Swan's Crossing (4841854) **3.00** Ready or Not (6220496) **3.30** 9-2-5 (4853689) **4.00** Saved by the Bell (4832106) **4.30** USa High (4821090) **5.00** Hangtime (8225941) **5.30** Sweet Valley High (4845670) **6.00** Teenage Urban Adventurer (3884106) **6.15** Rush (3872951) **6.30** Madison (4833835) **7.00** Hangtime (8213477) **7.30** USa High (4839019) **8.00** Close

BRAVO

6.00pm The Prisoner (1319632) **9.00** Burning Zone (1339496) **10.00** Tour of Duty (1332583) **11.00 FILM: Night Trap** (6498038) **1.00am** Burning Zone (7082317) **2.00** Tour of Duty (9676807) **3.00 FILM: Doppelganger: Evil Within** (1355794) **5.00** Planet of the Apes (1122978)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (2729) **7.30** Roseanne (4816) **8.00** Ellen (1477) **8.30** Cybill (3212) **9.00** Cheers (63106) **9.30** Taxi (229922) **10.00** Fraser (63545) **10.30** Alexei Sayle's Stuff (92293) **11.00** Armstrong & Miller (58651) **11.30** Nightstand (40816) **12.00** Soap (58220) **12.30am** Laverne & Shirley (42171) **1.00** E UK (82959) **1.30** Taxi (21338) **2.00** Roseanne (43133) **2.30** Armstrong & Miller (62268) **3.00** Fraser (95423) **3.30** Alexei Sayle's Stuff (46220)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sightings (9807106) **9.00 FILM: Vamp** (1986) (42806564) **10.50** The Making of Contact (6474835) **11.00** Friday the 13th (7361458) **12.00** Sightings (9461607) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (2571930) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (7630065) **2.00** Dark Shadows (7426152) **2.30** New Alfred Hitchcock (7412956) **3.00** Friday the 13th (7714828) **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am Simply Painting (8869212) **9.30** Garden Calendar (4119361) **10.00** Garden Club (1506835) **10.30** Room Service (6865496) **11.00** The House (2002748) **11.30** Graham Kerr (2003477) **12.00** Julia Child (6856748) **12.30pm** Hometime (4120477) **1.00** This Old House (2249372) **1.30** New Yankee Workshop (4129748) **2.00** Hammer It Home (6214835) **2.30** Our House (4741800) **3.00** Our House (6226870) **3.30** Our House (4826545)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm History's Turning Points (4838380) **4.30** Fire (4834564) **5.00** Connections 2 (6205187) **5.30** Jurassica 2 (4825816) **6.00** Wild Guide (4822729) **6.30** Wild at Heart (4846309) **7.00** Invention (6218651) **7.30** History's Turning Points (4835293) **8.00** Robot Warriors (1322106) **9.00** Flightline (2015212) **9.30** Ultra Science (4133941) **10.00** Crime and Punishment (1312729) **11.00** Professionals (1058039) **12.00** Special Forces: Soviet Airborne (5203775) **12.30am** Fire (2867084) **1.00** History's Turning Points (8769336) **1.30** Connections 2 (6378220) **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Stranded (9055105) **7.30** Sex and Greed: The Bower Birds (1572748) **8.00** Born to Run (1948632) **9.00** Fatal Game, Everest (1968496) **10.00** Heaven's Breath: Winds of Change



TENNIS 42
Sad Becker reaches end of the road

SPORT

CANOEING 42
Manchester boy paddling towards world slalom title



Al Fayed offers part-time position

Keegan given chance to lead Fulham revival

BY MATT DICKINSON

MOHAMED AL FAYED has served notice that money is no object in his ambitious attempt to turn Fulham from a corner shop into the Harrods of English football by attempting to lure Kevin Keegan behind the counter. The Nationwide League second division club is hoping to make an announcement today that the former Newcastle United manager, who has been out of the game since January, would join it on a part-time basis.

Nor are the changes likely to stop there. Micky Adams, the manager, was a surprise absentee as Fulham played Wolverhampton Wanderers in a Coca-Cola Cup second-round, second-leg tie at Molineux last night, where his assistant, Alan Cork, took charge of the first team. Adams's absence fuelled speculation that Ray Wilkins, presently coaching at Crystal Palace, had already been lined up as a replacement to work under Keegan.

Adams is understood to have declined to travel to Wolves after seeking clarification about his future. He led the team to promotion last season but now seems certain to be replaced by Wilkins, whose last spell in charge of a team was with Queens Park Rangers a year ago.

Eight months ago, Keegan walked out of St James' Park, turning his back on the job he claimed was the best in football, and most observers believed that he had walked out of the game for good. He recently contacted Al Fayed to seek backing for a Midlands-based theme park based around football, and it was then that the Egyptian tycoon brought up the idea of the former England striker becoming involved with Fulham. Keegan was a guest in Al Fayed's executive box at Craven Cottage last week for the first leg of the Wolves match.

Luring Keegan would be a genuine coup for Al Fayed, who has been typically forthright about his intentions of leading the second division side into the FA Carling Premiership, and is evidently willing to back his claims with millions of pounds in funding. Keegan would act as a magnet to attract leading players, enabling Fulham to compete strongly in the transfer market even from the relative depths of the Nationwide League.

Al Fayed has already pledged to spend £20 million refurbishing Craven Cottage and promotion to the first division this season would oblige him to turn the ground, which holds fewer than than 15,000 supporters, into an all-seat stadium.

Redevelopment plans are restricted, however, because of the listed status on the Stevenage Road Stand facade and the cottage itself. Architects have already examined ambitious ways to redevelop the site, including the possibility of a huge car park under the pitch to cope with the swelling crowds.

Having invested £300 million in Harrods and £100 million in renovating the Ritz Hotel, Al Fayed is not likely to balk at the rebuilding costs of Fulham, for whom he has developed a real affection since taking over this summer. His plans for the club include developing a large community centre.

The Egyptian has sought advice on his ambitious project from Professor Sir Rowland Smith, the chairman of Manchester United's plc, but he has some distance to go before achieving his aim of turning Fulham into the Manchester United of the South.

They presently lie eleventh in the second division, with 11 points from their opening eight games. Al Fayed is hoping to use Keegan's experiences at Newcastle where, with £16 million of backing, he lifted the club from the bottom of the old second division to the top of the Premiership in five years. Since leaving Newcastle on January 8, Keegan has been pursuing business interests including his horse racing venture and he has bought extra land on the estate owned by Sir John Hall, who is soon to step down as Newcastle chairman. He has spent a lot of time working on an autobiography, which is due out next month, but Fulham are hopeful that he could soon be adding another chapter.



Wilkins: speculation



Keegan: guest

GILL ALLEN



Nick Faldo greets Martin while, from left, Olazabal, Costantino Rocca and Darren Clarke try to hide their discomfort

Martin fails to take the strain

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN VALDERRAMA

FINALLY, it came down to a brief handshake, a gallery of downward glances and the uncomfortable shuffling of feet. Miguel Angel Martin's Ryder Cup career began and ended yesterday with a stage-managed show of solidarity that did little to soothe the troubled waters of Valderrama.

Sporting the Europe team's latest outfit, Martin attempted to mingle with his colleagues as they lined up for official photographs, but the awkwardness engendered by the affair quickly manifested itself in a series of strained smiles and a sudden aversion to eye contact.

For Martin, who was denied his rightful place on the team after refusing to prove his fitness after a wrist injury, the reservoir of goodwill soon ran dry. He would not, he said, be staying to watch the match. "I shall go home to Madrid and watch the match on television," he said. "I do not feel like being at the Ryder Cup."

It was just one more contradiction. Earlier, the Ryder Cup committee — the body responsible for Martin's exclusion — issued a statement saying: "Miguel Angel Martin has been invited to attend the match and related events in his capacity of non-playing member and he has welcomed the chance to play this role with the team."

At one stage Martin had even stood side-by-side with Ken Schofield, the executive director of the PGA European Tour and a member of the Ryder Cup committee. It was hardly a match made in heaven though, and Martin later admitted that the whole episode could have been handled with more dignity. "Ken, Severiano [Ballesteros, the Europe team captain] and I should have got around a table and got it resolved," he said. "That would have been better."

The Spaniard has considerable support from rank-and-file players, who feel that the committee acted with unseemly haste in allocating his place to José María Olazábal, who finished eleventh, one place behind him, in the Ryder Cup points table.

At a meeting of the players' Tournament Committee at the Forest of Arden last week, they criticised the decision to drop Martin from the team and said it was up to the player concerned to decide his fitness.

Yesterday, though, it was apparent that whatever the 12 players who will defend Europe's honour this week think about the rights and wrongs of the case, their sense of purpose leaves little room for distraction.



Practice makes perfect 44
Lynne Truss 44
Calculating captains 44

Celtic are denied fee for Collins transfer

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

CELTIC were left dismayed last night after learning that they will not receive a fee for their former midfield player, John Collins. Fifa, football's world governing body, had been expected to reveal a decision later this week but last night informed Celtic that their appeal has been unsuccessful.

Collins left Celtic Park for AS Monaco last year under the Bosman ruling, but Celtic disputed the free transfer. Fergus McCann, the Scottish club's managing director, appealed to Fifa, arguing that Monaco is a principality, not part of the European Union.

The club wanted Fifa's backing in their attempt to secure around £2 million for Collins. After the ruling, Celtic plan to discuss with legal experts whether they have grounds for further appeal.

An important aspect of the Fifa decision that Celtic are anxious to resolve is that the Scottish Football Association (SFA) appear to have delayed passing on the club's appeal fee. In a statement, the club said: "We are surprised and disappointed the appeal to Fifa in this case has been rejected. The rejection is based on the apparent late arrival of the appeal fee from the SFA. We are investigating this key aspect of the matter.

"We are surprised on two counts: 1) Why were Celtic not advised of any problem regarding the SFA's late paying last December 2 despite continuous dialogue since then and two meetings in Switzerland? 2) Why has Fifa commented on the merits of our case when it also states it is unable to examine Celtic's argument in detail, which should be fundamental to any statement by them? We are considering our position with our advisers."

The club added there would be no further statement until these matters can be discussed with the parties involved. Meanwhile, Collins's agent, Ray Sparkes, moved quickly to defuse reports that the player may now be surplus to requirements at the French club coached by Jean Tigana.

Sparkes said: "John is now back in the Monaco side after injury and this has happily coincided with the reviving fortunes of the team."

Spurs do not deny Ravanelli deal

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TOTTENHAM Hotspur refused to confirm that they were trying to sign Fabrizio Ravanelli on a £42,000-a-week, three-month loan deal last night, but his agent in England did reveal that the Italy striker's future would be settled shortly.

Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, is struggling to cope with an injury crisis, even though Chris Armstrong made his comeback at Bolton Wanderers last night and Les Ferdinand could be fit for the game against Wimbledon on Saturday. "I never talk about other club's players," Francis said.

The manager was nevertheless locked in talks with the Tottenham operations manager, Daniel Sugar — son of Alan Sugar, the club chairman — before the Bolton game and seems sure to have asked if Middlesbrough could be contacted about Ravanelli.

Later yesterday, Daniel Sugar said: "There is nothing we want to say at the moment. If and when there is something to announce, we will let you know."

However, Pino Paglari, Ravanelli's representative, said: "I think there is something in it. I think we are about 24 hours from the finalisation, the outcome."

Keith Lamb, the Middlesbrough chief executive, was believed to be holding talks with Alan Sugar in a London hotel yesterday afternoon after watching the team win a Coca-Cola Cup tie at Barnet on Tuesday night. After that game, Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, had said: "There are a couple of clubs interested in signing Fabrizio. We had a meeting with him earlier in the week and now he will talk to them and a decision will be made. I can't say who the clubs are."



Francis: inquiries

Meanwhile, Francis said: "We have lodged inquiries with several clubs about several players and it may be important that we take somebody, perhaps on a loan deal, to tide us over until Les, Chris and Steffen Iversen are back.

"It is not only those we are missing. Rory Allen and Paul McVeigh are also injured. Paul Mahorn, who has been playing up front, is about sixth-choice." Armstrong, he added, is "still a long way from being fully fit".

Middlesbrough are desperate to off-load Ravanelli, who, in a troubled season on Teeside, has criticised the club's training facilities, flown to Italy for treatment to injuries and refused to discourage reports of other clubs wanting to sign him. Robson still needs to buy new players but is waiting until the Ravanelli's future is settled before seeking more money.

A loan deal could now be the only solution for the club — with the hope that they will, eventually, recoup most of the £7.5 million that they paid Juventus for him before the start of last season.

Frank Clark, the Manchester City manager, yesterday suggested that he has yet to receive any sort of offer for Uwe Rösler, his unsettled German forward. Reports had suggested that Everton were prepared to offer Earl Barrett, a defender, and £500,000 in exchange for Rösler, but Clark said: "We have yet to hear from any club."

Lottery delay slows Britain's challenge

BY JOHN GOODBODY

NONE of the Great Britain competitors has yet received National Lottery funding to prepare for the Winter Olympics in February. Athletes are having to dig into their financial reserves with the start of the games in Nagano, Japan, four months away.

Many of the delegates, from the 37 summer and winter sports, to the British Olympic Association (BOA) annual general meeting in London yesterday criticised the funding arrangements that were announced last November because most of the money still has not been delivered to the competitors.

Craig Reedie, the chairman of the BOA, said: "We find the process of distribution of lottery funds to both governing bodies and to athletes to be unnecessarily bureaucratic and cumbersome."

He said there can be no sense in the four home countries' sports councils having entirely different distribution systems for revenue applications operated under identical legislation.

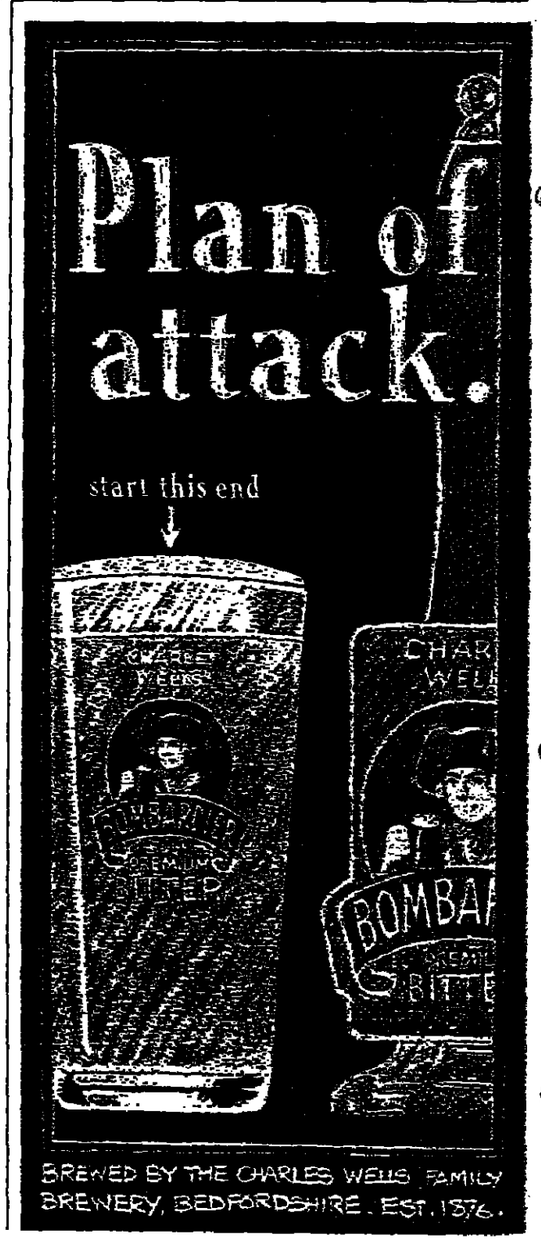
Reedie added: "I believe that some of the contractual obligations being placed upon governing bodies as a consequence of their lottery award to be both unrealistic and unnecessary."

It is not only the able-bodied sportsmen and women who are suffering. Dr Bob Price, of the British Paralympic Association, said the same problems affected prospective competitors at the Paralympics, which follow the able-bodied games in Nagano.

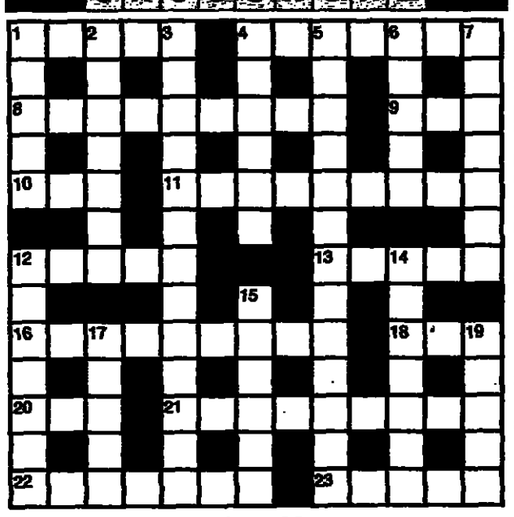
Paul Pruszynski, of the British Bobsleigh Association, said that although his sport, short-track skating and curling had had their applications accepted, the money had yet to get through to the competitors.

Gavin Stewart, who chairs the BOA athletes commission, said: "There is widespread disillusionment just at the time when competitors should be feeling better." Money has stopped for most elite athletes from the Sports Aid Foundation. This independent body which, since 1976 has raised private finance to help competitors, is now concentrating on supporting talented youngsters.

Derek Casey, chief executive of the English Sports Council, said: "In less than a year we have allocated $20 million (about £12.5 million) in the world class performance programme to 15 sports, a total of 560 competitors and 460 have actually got the money in their hands."



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1208

ACROSS
1 (High) social standing (5)
4 Maize eaten at cinema (7)
8 Humiliated: (flesh) tamed (9)
9 Go on at: a horse (3)
10 Bath; boat (5)
11 Awareness; learning (9)
12 Allow to enter (3,2)
13 Piece of paper; ship's rope (5)
16 P G —, *Jeeves* author (9)
18 Pass between peaks (3)
20 Fish, proverb. slippery (3)
21 Have a good time (4,5)
22 Calumny (7)
23 Mil. position-detecting equipment (5)

DOWN
1 Solar System visitor (5)
2 Tumbler (7)
3 Unadventurous person (5-2-3-3)
4 Christie's Belgian detective (6)
5 Mississippi boat (6,7)
6 Possessed (5)
7 Insufficiently attend to (7)
12 The bar; "Let's kill all the—" (*Dick - Hen. VI/2*) (7)
14 Called for repeat (7)
15 Sand trap; underground shelter (6)
17 Greek *D* (5)
19 Stratum; a hen (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1207
ACROSS: 2 Galactic 6 Haggle 8 Romans 9 Friends 10 Solve 12 Countrymen 16 Cheltenham 18 Array 20 Brioche 21 Height 22 Alfred 23 Scornful
DOWN: 1 Patriot 2 Gendarme 3 Arouse 4 Trail 5 Casket 7 Guernica 11 On and off 13 Material 14 Cashier 15 Bathos 17 Hyphen 19 Rhino

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